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Selection from old Records.

Coinubatore Dist 1919

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SELECTIONS FROM OLD RECORDS

COIMBATORE DISTRICT

LETTERS SENT TO THE BOARD OF
REVENUE 1822 & 1823

SELECTED BY THE COLLECTOR OF COIMBATORE.

(Para 30 of the District Press Manual).

PRINTED FOR CONVENIENCE OF REFERENCE.

COIMBATORE:

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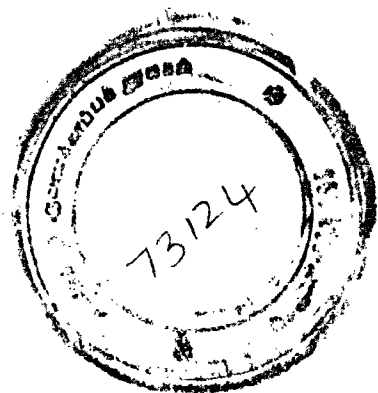
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PREFATORY NOTE.

These selections from the old records of the Coimbatore District relating to 1822 and 1823 have been made with reference to the principles laid down in G.O. No. 172, Revenue, dated 17th January 1914, and contain correspondence with the Board of Revenue relating to the following subjects, viz., (1) grant of Jaghir to the Jaghirdar of Sivasamudram, (2) reports on the Land Revenue Settlements of the District, (3) Tobacco monopoly, etc. They are printed, as they are of historical and administrative importance.

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செப்பனுவல்தற்காக ரெகஸ்டர் செய்து கொள்ளப்பட்ட நாள். July 1995
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To

THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE
BOARD OF REVENUE.

GENTLEMEN,

On the receipt of the correspondence regarding the Sevana Samoodram Bridge, I felt it to be incumbent upon me to request the Resident at Mysore, and the Collector of Seringapatam to assemble the people who signed the Original petition for the grant of the Island, and to ask them two questions—1st, at whose instance they signed the petition. 2nd, at whose expense the Bridge was built.

2. I beg leave to forward copies of letters addressed to me in reply, by those authorities with the several enclosures therein referred to.

3. The Board will observe that with the exception of one person, they all declare, that they signed the petition by Ramasawmy's desire, upon an understanding that he was responsible for the cost of the works, that he has borne the whole charge, & that they have no claim whatever to the Island.

4. Custoor Rungachary, the person mentioned in my letter of the 20th November 1821 is an exception to this unanimity. This person asserted that the Raja of Mysore gave him a neroop or order for 4,500 Pags. which was expended upon the Bridge. The Resident was so good as to put this matter beyond doubt, by asking the Raja personally, whether he had paid that sum for the Bridge. The answer of His Highness was, that the neroop was given in payment for an Organ Clock and Musical Snuff Boxes, &c., and that he had not contributed in any way, to the expense of the Bridge—*Vide* enclosure 9.

5. The neroop or order was given thro' Custoor Rungachary to Appasawmy Reddy the Sayer renter, the greater part in payment of those articles, the remainder as a remission of the rent for which Ramasawmy Moodely was Security—*Vide* Appasawmy's evidence enclosure 10.

6. Custoor Rungachary having asserted that the Bridge was built at his expence had been called upon by Ramasawmy Moodely in the presence of several persons to state, whether such was the fact, and whether he asserted it to be so. He then gave a voluntary declaration, stating that the Bridge was entirely built by Ramasawmy, and that reports had been raised by ill disposed persons for the purpose of embroiling him in disputes with Ramasawmy—*Vide* enclosures in the Residents letter 3 to 8.

7. This person has been repeatedly called up by me to produce his accounts of the expenditure of money on the Bridge & to state to whom the money asserted to be so expended, was paid. The only answer he gives is, that the Tahsildar of Colligal stole his accounts. Custoor visited me twice during the time that the work was going on, and never mentioned having contributed money to the Bridge. He made no claim of this sort, until reports reached him, that I had recommended the grant of a Shotriem Village for its support. His claim is treated by all the other Subscribers to the petition, as an audacious attempt to defraud Ramasawmy of his just rights.

8. I am very sorry to trouble the Board with these voluminous documents; that Ramasawmy got up the Original petition, that he built the Bridge at his sole expence, were notorious and undisputed facts when I inserted his name in the Cowle. As his name has been erased from it, I have been obliged to procure formal evidence of these facts, and this evidence is adduced to answer two purposes first, to secure to the man his just rights, and secondly as my justification for having inserted his name in the Cowle to the exclusion of the other Subscribers to the petition.

9. It was my wilful meant interference that brought this trouble upon the man. He petitioned first in his own name, and I insisted upon his getting others to help him to satisfy me, he got the benefit of their names and nothing else.

10. I hope therefore the Board will have the goodness to cause Ramasawmy Moodely's name to be reinserted in the Cowle. He has petitioned for the grant of a tract of Jungle adjoining the Island, for the Establishment of a Village for Pariahs and Pullers. If the Government should think him deserving of this further indulgence, I will have the Land measured, and it can be inserted in the Cowle. It has been waste from many hundred years.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

(Sd.) JOHN SULLIVAN,
Collector.

COIMBATORE,
14th January 1822.

To

THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE
BOARD OF REVENUE.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honor to forward the accounts of the Revenue Settlement of the District of Coimbatore for the Current Fuzly 1231.

2. The difference between Settlements of the last and present Fuzlies is shown in the following comparative statement.

ABSTRACT.

	Fuzly 1230.		Fuzly 1231.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	RS.	A. P.	RS.	A. P.	RS.	A. P.	RS.	A. P.
Poonjee land ...	9,79,815	9 9	9,74,218	7 9			5,597	2 0
Garden Ditto ...	4,91,935	9 0	5,00,038	10 0	8,103	1 0		
Nanjee Ditto ...	4,06,800	4 4	4,21,315	0 6	14,514	12 2		
Meadows or Grass land including Poonjee, Garden & Nanjee.	1,36,543	15 6	1,32,640	8 5			3,903	7 1
Total land revenue ...	20,16,095	6 7	20,29,212	10 8	22,617	13 2	9,500	9 1
Deduct 1/5th & 1/8th Remission to Bramins & Mohamedans.	957	4 8	1,085	6 11	123	2 3		
Remainder ...	20,14,138	1 11	20,27,127	3 9	22,489	10 11	9,500	9 1
Sournadayam ...	1,74,647	13 2	1,72,793	3 9			1,854	9 5
Total Settlement ...	21,88,785	15 1	21,99,920	7 6	22,489	10 11	11,355	2 6
			Deduct Decrease ...		11,355	2 6		
			Nett Increase ...		11,134	8 5		

3. This Increase arises entirely from the lands artificially irrigated, which are the great support of the Revenue of this province—the rains of the North East monsoon were partial & unseasonable & large remissions were made in the rents of the Poonjee lands in those Talooks which suffered most for the draught.

	RS.	A. P.
The Revenue derived from the Poonjee lands in Fuzly 1230		
was ...	9,79,815	9 9
The Settlement of Fuzly 1231	9,74,218	7 9

Decrease ... 5,597 2 0

	RS.	A. P.
4. The Rice lands yield a Revenue in Fuzly 1230.	4,06,800	4 4
The Settlement of the Current Fuzly is ...	4,21,315	0 6
Increase ...	14,514	12 2

This Increase is the consequence of the reduction made in Fuzly 1229 in the rents of the Wet lands in the Erood & Sattimungalam Talooks. The Waste lands are coming rapidly into Cultivation and as the supplies of water from the Bhowanie are never known to fail, the lands when once cultivated become a valuable & saleable property.

	RS.	A.	P.
The Increase in the Nanjee Cultivation of Erood.	6,130	15	3
and of Sattimungalam ...	6,319	0	0
the other Talooks ...	2,066	12	11
Total ...	14,514	12	2

5. The Settlement of the Garden lands in last Fuzly

Vide Statement No. 2	was ...	4,91,935	9 0
	For the Current Fuzly ...	5,00,038	10 0
	Increase ...	8,103	1 0

6. By the Statement enclosure No. 3 the progressive Increase of the Revenue derived from Gardens since Fuzly 1225 will be observed. In Fuzly 1225, the Number of Bullas under Garden Cultivation was 34,048-15 $\frac{3}{16}$ Bullas, the revenue derived from such lands Rs. 4,33,142-13-10, the per-centage upon the whole Revenue Rs. 20-4-9. In Fuzly 1231, the Number of Bullas is 39,132-13, the Revenue *Rs. 5,09,112-2-11, the per-centage Rs. 23-2-3. The number of Wells in repair in Fuzly 1225 was 27,097, in 1231 F. the number is 28,719. Increase 1,622. As the conversion of the Ordinary arable lands into Gardens cannot be effected without some Capital, & as no advances are made from the public Treasury to assist the Ryots in such works—this progressive increase in the Garden Cultivation may fairly be regarded as a proof of improvement in the general circumstances of the people.

7. Three great objects are attained by the conversion of arable lands into Gardens, or Increase of the public Revenue—the Security of the Revenue, and the creation for the Ryot, of a valuable property in the land. Every encouragement is held out to the Ryots to promote the formation of Wells and Gardens. In Fuzly 1226 the terms of Cowle under which the Ryots are entitled to pay Poonjee rent for newly made Garden lands was extended for 3 years to 5. This is now the usual period, but greater indulgence is granted when applied for.

8. The nature of the Ryots property in these lands was described in my report of the 29th May 1819. The claim to the property is not vitiated by time or absence amongst the Ryots themselves; the Proprietor is generally permitted to resume possession of his inheritance, or payment of certain charges which are fixed by a Panchayet. The Courts however cannot of course take cognizance of any Suit for the recovery of property of this kind of a longer standing than the period limited by Law.

9. One evil consequence of this usage is, that many of the finest lands in the District, the property either of absentees, or from default of heirs, of the state, in either unoccupied, or much under rented. The fear of being dispossessed, by some claimant, connected with the Original Proprietor debars other persons either from taking possession of such lands, or from repairing the Wells.

10. Lands of this description are fairly chargeable with the full standard assessment and the proprietors are answerable to the Government, either for the whole rent, or for the difference between the full rent and the rent paid by temporary occupants. Proclamation was issued in the month of November 1821 calling upon all Proprietors of Wells and Gardens to pay the public assessment on their property, from the present Fuzly within six months, on pain of the lands being attached and sold for arrears of Revenue.

11. It is proposed at the expiration of the terms mentioned in the proclamation to put up all unclaimed and unoccupied Wells and Gardens, as well as those which pay only a reduced rent to public auction. The owners will then come forward and claim the lands, or they will pass into the hands of the present occupants with a valid title or be purchased by such persons as may wish to become the Proprietors.

12. The greater portion of these lands are probably, from default of heirs, exheats to the state; others are the property of absentees, or of persons on service, and who intend to resume possession of them at some distant period. The just demand of Government upon such proprietors is, for arrears from the time, that the lands were left waste; it is a lenient measure therefore to call upon them only for the assessment of the Current year. The Poonjee and Rice lands become the property of the state, the moment they are unoccupied and they pass into the hands of other tenants who cannot by the usage of the Country, be disturbed so long as they pay the standard.

13. The case is different with the Gardens, the Government cannot confer a title to them, without first obtaining one, by the process of seizure for arrears of public Revenue—without a valid title, no occupant willing to pay the standard assessment, can be found for the lands. The measure therefore now in progress is intended principally for the security, & just increase of the public Revenue, as well as for the creation of Private Property. The Standard assessment of lands of this description is Rs. 1,00,549-5-6 of which Rs. 19,671-0-8 is paid by temporary occupants, and the remainder Rs. 80,878-4-10 is due by Proprietors; a very large proportion of this it is hoped will be added to the Revenue of the next Fuzly.

14. A Decrease in the Revenue derivable from what is termed here the fixed Sournadayam will be observed. This head consists of taxes upon the Ryots, Cattle, Sheep, Trees, &c. Endeavours have been used under the sanction of the Board to get rid of these objectionable sources of the public income entirely by commuting the Ryots payments, for an equivalent to be derived from land. The occupation however of additional land in commutation for other payments, is almost found to be rather nominal than real, except when the proposition for an increase innates for the Ryots himself. As a more efficacious measure therefore, it has been resolved, that no advance shall be made upon the Taxes paid under the heads in Fuzly 1230, That the Ryots shall receive remissions for losses amongst their Cattle, or Trees, and not be subject to additional taxation, when their flocks, herds, Trees increase. This will create some little inequality in the payments—as Ryots hereafter becoming possessed of Sheep & Cattle, will not be taxed, whilst the old proprietors will continue to pay taxes as they stood in Fuzly 1230. Without giving up the Revenue derived from these sources at once, no measure less objectionable than the one now in progress could be thought of, to ensure a gradual abolition of the taxes.

15. In Fuzly 1226 waste lands were given to the Village Sibbandy of the Northern Division of the District in lieu of their money payments—upon enquiry it was found, that the lands so granted were of the worst description, and most of the unfit for Cultivation; the sibbandy therefore were either badly paid or not paid at all. To remedy this serious evil, lands actually under Cultivation either of their own farms, or from the farms of such Ryots who were willing, to agree to the measure, have this year been charged with the payments of the sibbandy and deducted from the Settlement to the amount of Rs. 15,148-12-10.

16. The Number of Ryots holding Pattahs for Land rent	
in Fuzly 1230	1,00,547
The number entered in the accounts for Fuzly 1231.	1,00,357
Difference	190

It does not follow however from the statement that there is the actual decrease in the number of Land holders; separate Pattahs are often given to Ryots who hold lands on Cowle, & when the Cowle expires, the land becomes part of their permanent farms, & one Pattah is given for the whole. The last two seasons have however been peculiarly unfavorable for the poorest description of Ryots. The moderate assessment of the lands in this District, tempts the labouring classes in a favorable season, to become Land holders; the least adversity throws them back to their former station—Whatever real decrease there may be in the number of Ryots holding Pattahs, is to be attributed to this fluctuation in the conditions of the poorer classes, the consequences of two successive bad seasons.

17. All the Garden lands in this District are saleable, the Nanjee lands watered from the rivers are for the most part so, and I am happy to state, that the better discription of Poonjee lands are gradually becoming saleable, and often at a good price.

	RS.	A.	P.
18. The Collections from the 13th July 1820 to the end of March 1821 were	14,41,540	12	7
The Collections of the same period in the present Fuzly amount to	15,53,863	10	6
Increase	1,14,322	13	11

19. Four of the largest and most important Talooks are under the Management of Mr. Monro, Sub-Collector, 2. under Mr. Clive, the Head Assistant, and 1. under Mr. Clementson, the 2nd Assistant. It is but an act of Justice to Mr. Clementson to state that he is perfectly competent to transact business in the Tamil language, and is in all other respects a useful and zealous Public Servant.

I have the honor to be,

with much respect

Gentlemen,

CIRCUIT CUTCHERY,

NILGHERY MOUNTAINS,
4th April 1822.

Your most Obedient Servant,

(Sd.) JOHN SULLIVAN,
Pl. Collector.

To

THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE
BOARD OF REVENUE.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg leave to ask for instructions upon one or two points of the Cowle transmitted in Mr. Secretary Clarke's letter of the 15th Ultimo, for the grant of the Island of Sevana Samoodram.

2. The preamble of the Cowle grants the rents and Revenues of a certain Village. Paragraphs 1, 2 & 3 direct that an annual sum shall be paid in all seasons to Government from the rents and Revenues by the Grantee. Para 4 prohibits the Grantee from alienating the rents and revenues to any purpose whatever. Para 6, prohibits the levy of rents and Revenues from lands and Revenues which at present exempt therefore.—Para 7 provides for the security of the Ryots and Village servants in their just rights.

3. This is an abstract of the principal provisions in the draft. It has occurred to me that they are exclusively applicable to Villages actually yielding rents and revenues, of which Government intend to retain a part, and to give away the remainder. Seva Samoodrum is, however, neither yields rents or revenues; it is an uninhabited Jungle. The rents and Revenues remain to be created, and they can only be created at the expense of the Grantee. The first step for the accomplishment of this was the construction of the Bridge, the next is to get the place peopled, the jungle is then to be cut which can only be done by giving the Ryots Cowle for some years,—these are necessary preliminaries to the creation of Revenue and it will be a work of time before they can be got once. If therefore the Grantee is called upon to pay any thing beyond a nominal quit rent, it is evident that instead of Government granting rents and Revenues to the Grantee, the Grantee will in fact be creating Revenues for Government from lands which yielded none before and which never would have paid any but for his enterprise and public spirit in building the bridges.

4. I venture to make these observations because the original application was for a grant of the Island Rent Free. The application was acceded to upon these terms, and the works were carried on upon an understanding that the grant of the Island was to be Enam and not Shotrium,—that is upon the same tenure as the lands granted in this District for the support of Choultries and other public buildings,—free from all demands of rent, as the Island yields neither rents or revenues. I beg leave to be informed what sum should be entered in the Cowle as quit rent. Most of the other provisions in the proposed Cowle have in view the protection of the Ryots, Village servants and Enamdars of which there are none at Sevana Samoodrum. The clauses however may be inserted, if the Board thinks proper, as mere matters of form.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

COIMBATORE,
19th May 1822.

(Signed.) J. SULLIVAN,
Pl. Collector.

To

THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE
BOARD OF REVENUE.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Secretary Clarke's letter of the 29th April, received here on the 14th ultimo, enclosing the copy of a letter from the Hon'ble Court of Directors, and desiring me to furnish information on the following subjects.

- (1) On the present system of conducting the Tobacco monopoly.
- ~~(2) What grounds there may be for believing that Mr. Garrow participated in the abuses of his servants.~~
- ~~(3) By what means publicity was given to the minute of the Board of Revenue on the report of the Coimbatore Commissioners.~~

2. The Tobacco monopoly was formerly carried on immediately by the Revenue Servants—advances were made to the Ryots from the public Treasury and the Tobacco was delivered into the public Godowns. The several processes of weighings, sorting and packing, were performed by the Revenue Department. The Contract for the Carriage of the Tobacco from Coimbatore to Ponany was also made in the Collector's Cutchery since Puzly 1227, A.D. 1817-18. The supply of the Monopoly has been managed by an open Contract. The Contractors receive no advances from

the public Treasury, and are only entitled to payment upon producing receipts at the Treasury of Coimbatore from the Collector of Malabar, for the quantity of Tobacco actually lodged in store there.

3. The Revenue Servants are now entirely withdrawn from the management of the Tobacco concern, and this is the chief benefit derived from the change of system. The Cultivation of Tobacco was for some years carried on by licenses issued from the Revenue Department, and the Growers were obliged to deliver the whole produce to Government at the fixed rates. The rates were very liberal, and supposing the Money to have reached the Ryots, without any fraudulent deduction being made from it, by the intermediate agents employed in the monopoly, they derived more profit from the Tobacco, than from any other species of lauded produce.

4. The System of licenses and the internal monopoly of the produce ceased in Puzly 1229, the trade in Tobacco was declared free in all directions, except to Malabar, Cochin and Travancore. These exceptions however rendered the freedom of trade nearly nominal, as the principal portion of the Tobacco grown in Coimbatore is almost exclusively for the market of those provinces. The Growers therefore were compelled to sell their Tobacco to the Contractor at an arbitrary price—of late years, the Travancore Government has drawn its supplies of Tobacco from Coimbatore, and this has occasioned such degree of competition in the trade, as secures to the Ryots to the full as good a price for the article as they got when the monopoly was managed immediately by the agents of Government.

5. The average price of Tobacco in Coimbatore is now 9 Star. Pgs. the Candy, the monopoly selling price in Malabar is 45 Star. Pgs. This enormous difference in the price offers an irresistible temptation to the Inhabitants of both provinces to league together in carrying on an extensive illicit Trade. The smugglers can afford to pay the Growers a higher price than the Contractors, and to sell the articles in Malabar, at one-half of the monopoly price,—and as buyers and sellers are in league, it is seldom that the persons engaged in it are detected.

6. The smugglers are a Banditti who commit every species of outrage. The plunder of Villages, and High way robbery are common amongst them, and their numbers annually increase. This is the most serious evil arising from the monopoly. I have repeatedly stated my opinion that if the trade was opened, high duties levied upon Tobacco in transit to Malabar, a very considerable proportion of the Revenue now derived in Malabar from the Monopoly might be realized. This might be done also by introducing the licence system which exists in Canara. Either of these modes of deriving a Revenue from Tobacco would appear preferable to the present Monopoly system.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

NILGHERY,
16th June 1822.

(Signed) JOHN SULLIVAN,
Pl. Collector.

To

THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE
BOARD OF REVENUE.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honor to return the Petition No. 190 from Custoor Runga Acharjy forwarded in your Secretary's letter of the 25th Ultimo.

2. That person addressed a representation to me in October 1821 stating that he had built the bridge at Sivasamudrum from a donation made to him for that purpose by the Raja of Mysore, and requesting me to send him a grant of the Island. I had seen the man repeatedly in the company of Ramasawmy Moodaly during the time, that the bridge was building, and in the month of

August I was residing for some time on the Island, when the petitioner was at a Village on the opposite Bank of the River, and as he never once mentioned his claim, I had good reason to believe that it was founded in fraud.

3. I desired him however to come to Coimbatore, with all evidence he could produce to substantiate his claim and I requested the Resident at Mysore to ascertain for me, whether there was any truth in what the Achary asserted regarding a donation made by the Raja for the construction of the Bridge.

4. The Resident informed me, that the Raja had made no such donation and the Achary declined appearing at Coimbatore as he was a Servant of the Raja. I obtained the Raja's permission for his appearance, and after many months of delay & evasion he was sent by the Raja to my Cutcherry in the month of February. I was occupied incessantly for a fortnight in examining the witnesses and documents which the Achary produced, and he cross examined the witnesses at still greater length, as they all swore positively that the Bridge was built entirely at the expense of Ramasawmy, and as all the documents and accounts produced by the complainant supported their evidence, in this particular, I had resolved to send the Achary to the Court upon a charge of wilful and corrupt perjury. As he was a servant and a favorite of the Raja of Mysore's, I thought it advisable to communicate the particulars of the man's conduct to the Resident, and I acquainted him at the same time with my resolution to forward the man to the Court, unless His Highness should wish him to be sent back to Mysore, to be punished there, if the Raja should think upon a perusal of the documents connected with the case, that he deserved punishment.

5. I received in reply the Raja's thanks for my consideration, and a request that the Achary might be forwarded to Mysore. He was accordingly sent with all the original depositions, and Vouchers, in the case to Mysore. The Raja after perusing them desired that the man might be dealt with according to the regulations of the British Government and for that purpose dispatched him under an escort to Coimbatore. On his way back the Achary contrived to purloin all the documents that were returned with him and for this fresh offence, I am informed by the Resident, that His Highness had fined and imprisoned him.

6. I had previously apprised the Resident that as the man had been sent to Mysore at the Raja's request, I could take no further cognizance of his offence. Pending the examination at Coimbatore, the Achary objected to my retaining charge of the documents he had produced in support of his claim, from an apprehension that I should purloin them. I put them therefore in a draw of which I gave the Achary the key. The next day the draw was found open, it had either not been locked or the Achary had opened it, but all the documents were forthcoming.

I have the honor to be,
Gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,
(Signed.) J. SULLIVAN,
Pl. Collector.

10th August 1822.

To

THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE
BOARD OF REVENUE.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honor to transmit translation of a Petition presented to me by Govind Rao 1st Huzoor Sheristadar in the Cutcherry of this District. He is a man of acknowledged talents, great acquirements, and experience, and of unimpeached integrity, in every way deserving of the promotion he prays for.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

(Signed.) J. SULLIVAN,
Pl. Collector.

19th August 1822.

To

JOHN SULLIVAN Esq.,

PRINCIPAL COLLECTOR OF

COIMBATORE.

The Humble address of Govind Row, Huzoor Sheristadar.

(After the usual respects), I humbly take the liberty to represent my case before your Honor that as there is a news of Establishing servants for keeping Dufters in the Board of Revenue, I humbly take the liberty to state that in Fuzly 1202, I was first employed as an Huzoor Gomastah under Colonel Thomas Munro the Sub-Collector of Baranahl. In Fuzly 1208, I was appointed as a Moonshy in the Huzoor, but after the Hon'ble Company having had possession of Seringapatam, etc., Countries above the Ghaut, and the said Gentleman being promoted as a Collector, to Canara, I followed him thither and acted as a Moonshy in Fuzly 1209. In Fuzly 1210, I was appointed as an Huzoor Sheristadar under Mr. I. G. Ravenshaw, the Collector in Mangalore Zillah, and I discharged it up to Fuzly 1214. In Fuzly 1215 the said Gentleman being changed to Southern Division of Arcot, I followed him thither and acted as Sheristadar under Mr. Ross the Sub-Collector up to Fuzly 1218. After the abolition of the Sub-Collector's Establishment, I was transferred as 2nd Sheristadar to Chittoor under Mr. H. S. Grome, in which I continued up to Fuzly 1220. In Fuzly 1221 I was an Huzoor Sheristadar for some time under Mr. Thomas Jarrett the Jagheer Collector, but Mr. Ravenshaw transferred me again as an Huzoor Sheristadar. I discharged it for the Fuzly 1221 and 1222, then I was taken back to Jagheer and acted as an Sheristadar under Mr. Thomas Jarrett, after him, under your honor, and under Mr. W. Cooke, after your honor left it to Coimbatore. So I continued in it up to F. 1225. After that, your honor having been pleased to appoint me as an Huzoor Sheristadar in this Zillah, I am discharging it since. However I served the Hon'ble Company for a period of 30 years, but for 22 years as an Huzoor Sheristadar. I enclose the Copies of the Characters I obtained from Mr. I. G. Ravenshaw, Mr. Thomas Jarrett and from Mr. W. Cooke, and as I am an old Servant of the Hon'ble Company, and now earnestly beg your honor will be pleased to recommend me so that I may have that situation.

I have the honor to be,

with much respect

Honord Sir,

Your most obedient and humble Servant.

COIMBATORE,
13th August 1822.

(Sd.) GOVIND ROW.
Huzoor Sheristadar.

No. 1.

Carangooly, 28th June 1812.

This is to Certify that the late Sheristadar of the Huzoor at Carangooly Govinda Row having been requested of me by Mr. Ravenshaw the Collector of the Southern Division of Arcot, has received my permission to proceed to Cuddalore as Sheristadar in that Cutcherry. It would be superfluous in me to add to the recorded sentiments expressed in favour of this man by Messrs. Ravenshaw, Ross, and Grome, I shall therefore merely remark that I part from him with regret, and his advancement in the Native Service, is, as it ought to be, the only reason for permitting him to leave me.

He has served in this Cutcherry ten months, and stoppages have been made from his Pay on account of the Native Fund from 1st September 1811 to 30th June 1812, amounting in the aggregate to Star Pogodas 13-15.

(Sd.) THOMAS JARRETT,
Collector.

No. 2.

This is to Certify that the bearer Govinda Row served me nearly five years in Canara as Head Sheristadar viz. from the end of 1800 to 1805. He had long before been in Colonel Munro's Cutcherry—in which he was brought up to public business and by whom he was particularly recommended to me. On my quitting Canara he voluntarily resigned his situation there in the hope of succeeding to a similar one in the Southern Division of Arcot, but as it was occupied by Survutun Row an old Servant of Lieutenant Colonel Macleod's, all I could do was to put him at the Head of Mr. Sub-Collector Ross's Cutcherry. He remained there till the Sub-Collectorship were done away and Mr. Ross was transferred as Head Assistant to the Collector of Chittoor. Mr. Grome the Collector however still continued Govind Row in the same employ—which he retained till about a year ago—when he was appointed Head of the Jaghire Cutcherry on my late Sheristadar Survutun Row proving corrupt, having ascertained from Mr. Grome & Mr. Jarrett that Govinda Row stood as high in their opinion as he had always done in mine. I appointed him to succeed Survutun Row.

I have frequently had occasion to recommend Govinda Row to the favorable notice of the Board of Revenue and have frequently lamented my inability to persuade the Board to reward his long & faithful Services by the grant of a Shrotrium Village. Mr. Ross had always highest opinion of his merits and I have never had reason to alter the invariable one, I have ever entertained of him.

I consider this statement of his Services due not only to the man on my quitting my situation but also to my successor whoever he may be.

NEW TOWN, CUDDALORE,
4th January 1813.

(Sd.) J. G. RAVENSHAW,
Collector.

No. 3.

This is to Certify that D. Govinda Row served under me as Sheristadar in this Cutcherry from the period of my taking charge of the Collectorship during which time he has conducted himself entirely to my satisfaction and has supported the high testimonials he possesses from numerous Collectors of experience both for ability and integrity. He leaves his present to obtain a more advantageous situation.

Govinda Row is a Subscriber to the Native Fund.

SYDAPETT,
24th September 1816.

(Sd.) W. COOKE,
Collector of Jaghire.

To

THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE
BOARD OF REVENUE.

GENTLEMEN,

In compliance with the instructions contained in Mr. Secretary Clerks' letter of the 11th July, I have the honor to forward the form of a grant of the Island of Sevanasamoodrum and a tract of Waste land adjoining it to T. Ramasawmy

Moodely.—The Grant is copied from a form extant in the Office of the Board, and according to which lands have been conferred in the Jagheer upon several persons who have erected public Buildings in that District.

I have the honor to be &c.

COIMBATORE,
29th August 1822.

(Sd.) J. SULLIVAN,
Pl. Collector.

P.S.—It is proper to state that the Island and the tract of Waste land have already been made over for the support of the Pagodas, and that the repairs of the Bridge must be defrayed by the builder from his private funds.

(Sd.) J. SULLIVAN.

A Cowle granted by the Hon'ble Sir Thomas Munro, K.C.B., Governor in Council of Fort St. George and its dependencies on the part of the Hon'ble East India Company to T. Ramasawmy Moodely his heirs, and successors for ever.

Whereas, the Honourable the Governor in Council is desirous to encourage the erection and support of buildings of public utility in the Districts under the Presidency of Fort St. George and whereas T. R. M. has erected a Bridge of stone over the Cauvery river leading to the Island of Sevanasamoodrum near the Village of Settigal. The Right Honourable the Governor in Council with a view to provide in some degree for the support of the Bridge on a permanent footing, is hereby pleased (subject to the confirmation of the Honourable Court of Directors) to grant to the said T. R. M. his heirs and successors for ever, the Island of Sevanasamoodrum situated in the Village of Settigal in the Zillah of Coimbatore and a tract of land now covered with Jungle on the South or right Bank & running parallel with the said Island of Sevanasamoodrum bounded on the north by the Cauvery river, on the South by Gaveroyennala, on the East by Pengana alla, and on the West by Cadagedda or the last Paddy fields of the said Village.

That the Island & land in question are not to be deemed a personal grant to T. R. M. his heirs & successors for ever,—but is to be considered as attached to the Bridge above mentioned for the support of that, and other charitable works erected, and to be erected within the Island by the grantee. However that so long as the buildings in question shall be maintained in an efficient state by the said T. R. M. his heirs and successors for ever, they shall have free liberty to appropriate to their own use any surplus Revenue derivable from the said Island and land.

That the said T. R. M. his heirs and successors for ever shall consider themselves amenable to all such regulations and ordinances as the British Government may from time to time establish for the dispensation of Justice and the prosperity of the Country.

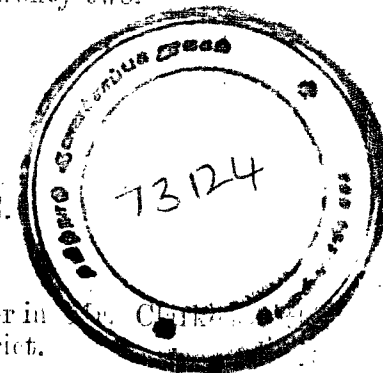
On the above conditions the said T. R. M. his heirs and successors for ever are hereby empowered to hold the said Island of Sevanasamoodrum and land and in witness thereof we the Honourable the Governor in Council of Fort St. George have hereunto affixed our names and the Seal of the said Company at Fort St. George this day of—One thousand & Eight hundred & Twenty two.

To

THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE
BOARD OF REVENUE.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honor to forward the information called for in of the 25th July 1822, regarding the Schools in this District.



R.
V2118, 68 (572)

2. The Statement No. 1 is drawn up after the form which accompanied Mr. Clarke's letter.

The Statement No. 2, shows the particular language taught in each school, the number of pupils, the average amount of stipends paid by Parents, to the Teachers, the average annual charge to pupils for the purchases of Cadjans.

The Statement No. 3, shows the Number of institutions in which Theology, Law and Astronomy are taught, the number of pupils educated in them, and the amount of Mauntem land granted by the Hindoo Government, for their support, and assumed either by Musselman, or by the British Government.

3. The earliest age at which boys attend school is 5 years—they continue there until they are 13 or 14. Those who study Theology, Law, etc., begin at about 15 and continue to frequent the Colleges until they have attained a competent knowledge in the sciences, or until they obtain employment.

4. Besides their regular stipends School Masters generally receive presents, from the Parents of their pupils, at the Dassarah and other great feasts, a fee is also given when the pupil begins a new Book. The annual stipend from one pupil varies from Rs. 14 to Rs. 3 per annum, according to the Circumstances of the parents. The School Hours are from 6 A.M. to 10, and from 1 or 2 P.M. until 8 at night. Besides the several festivals, they have regular Holidays—4 days in each month on the full of the moon, the new moon, and a day after each.

5. The education of females is almost entirely confined in this District to the dancing Women, who are generally of the Kykolar Cast, a class of weavers. There are exceptions to this rule, but the number are too insignificant to require notice.

6. There is a School for teaching English in the Town of Coimbatore, which is Superintended by an English writer belonging to this Outcherie.

I have the honor to be,

with much respect

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Sd.) J. SULLIVAN,
Pl. Collector.

COIMBATORE,
23rd November 1822.

To

THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE

BOARD OF REVENUE.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honor to forward the accounts of the Land Revenue Settlement of Coimbatore for Fuzly 1232.

2. The state of the Revenue in the current year compared with the Settlement of Fuzly 1231 is shown in the following Abstract Statement.

ABSTRACT.

	Settlement of Fuzly 1231.		Settlement of Fuzly 1232.		Increase on Fuzly 1231.		Decrease on Fuzly 1232.
	Bullas.	Amount.	Bullas.	Amount.	Bullas.	Amount.	
		RS. A. P.		RS. A. P.		RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
Poonjee Land ...	2,81,952 4	9,74,106 10 0	2,97,293 15 1	10,17,133 7 6	15,341 11 1	43,026 13 6	...
Garden Do. ...	36,688 8	5,00,038 10 0	38,295 3 1	5,25,623 11 5	1,706 11 1	25,485 1 5	...
Nanje Caghies...	3,18,540 12	14,74,145 4 0	3,35,898 16 1	15,42,637 2 11	17,048 7	68,511 14 11	...
	42,600 1	4,20,617 2 6	45,705 11 1	4,46,228 1 11	3,105 10	25,610 15 5	...
Total ...	...	18,94,762 6 6	...	19,85,385 4 10	...	94,122 14 4	...
Meadow or Grass Land Poonjee...	1,54,204 14 1	1,22,462 5 8	1,50,936 11 1	1,17,380 11 4	...	...	...
Garden ...	2,544 5	9,073 8 11	1,862 4 1	6,606 14 9	...	...	...
Nanje ...	1,56,749 3 1	1,31,535 14 7	1,52,799 1 1	1,23,987 10 1	...	...	...
	1,055 10 1	1,087 11 4	1,007 2 1	1,190 5 0	...	...	...
Total ...	...	1,32,623 9 11	...	1,25,177 15 1	...	...	7,445 10 10
Total Land Rev. Deduct 1/5th and 1/8th Remission to the Brahmans & Mohammedans.	...	20,27,386 0 5	...	21,14,063 3 11	...	94,122 14 4	7,445 10 10
	...	1,095 6 11	...	1,108 7 3	...	23 0 4	...
Remainder ...	...	20,26,300 9 6	...	21,12,954 12 8	...	94,099 14 0	7,445 10 10
Sournadayam ...	...	1,72,579 6 9	...	1,71,537 3 9	...	...	1042 3 0
Total ...	...	21,98,880 0 8	...	22,84,492 0 5	...	94,099 14 0	7,487 13 10
Bareez of the Rented Village.	...	1,040 7 3	...	1,190 9 8	...	150 2 5	...
Grand Total of Settlement.	...	21,99,920 7 6	...	22,85,682 10 1	...	94,250 0 5	8,487 13 10
Deduct Decrease ...							6,487 13 10
Net Increase ...							85,762 2 7

Settlement of Land Revenue exclusive of Poligars Peishcush.

	RS.	A.	P.
1209 ...	20,86,924	6	5
1210 ...	21,20,633	5	10
1211 ...	20,46,832	0	6
1212 ...	23,04,506	13	9
1213 ...	22,11,122	11	8
1214 ...	21,89,612	0	9
1215 ...	20,03,330	11	6
1216 ...	19,23,775	15	3
1217 ...	21,23,775	15	3
1218 ...	20,97,399	0	0
1219 ...	21,05,976	8	9
1220 ...	21,29,363	13	2
1221 ...	18,88,380	5	0
1222 ...	17,69,707	7	1
1223 ...	17,02,221	5	6
1224 ...	18,36,371	8	1
1225 ...	21, 3,543	14	10
1226 ...	20,23,166	5	6
1227 ...	21,14,159	15	8
1228 ...	22,07,411	13	9
1229 ...	22,16,739	0	1
1230 ...	21,83,785	15	1
1231 ...	21,9 920	7	6
1232 ...	22,85,682	10	1

3. This is an increase not only upon the Revenues of last year, but upon every settlement that has been made since the Province came into the possession of the British Government, with the exception of Fuzly 1212, the year in which the Revenue in the Southern Division was settled and collected upon the heavy assessment introduced by Mr. Hurdis. It was collected in that one year with very great difficulty, and in the next and the 3rd succeeding Fuzlies the Revenue continued to decline in that part of the Province, until it was found necessary to make a reduction of 37 per cent upon the Original assessments.

4. Reductions have since been made in the assessments of many of the Rice and grass lands of the Northern Divisions—the proportion of the Survey rate payable by the ryot for the grass lands in the Northern Division has been reduced from one-third to one-fourth. The period for which lands are granted on Cowle has been extended from three to five years and the Ryots are now permitted to convert their Grass into arable and vice versa, without passing any increased rent.

5. It is satisfactory to find, that the relief afforded to people by these reductions has been attended with corresponding advantages to the Government, the Revenue is now in a more flourishing condition and more punctually collected than it has ever been. Private property in the land has most materially increased of late years, and in those parts of the District, which are free from the ravages of wild Elephants, there is a great deal of competition for the unoccupied lands of good quality.

6. The survey valuation of all the Government lands in the District is Rs. 33,89,938-11-6. The survey values of the lands occupied and paying rent in Fuzly 1232 is Rs. 26,40,191-4-4 which are settled for the year for Rs. 21,15,042-12-1. The value of the lands held on Cowle is Rs. 1,80,090-12-5 which yield this year Rs. 73,693-7-5. These lands are held for the most part at an annually increasing rent until they reach the survey standard.

7. The value of the Grass lands is Rs. 5,13,302-11-7 so long as they continue in use exclusively for pasture, the Ryots pay only one-fourth of the survey rent, which this year amounts to Rs. 1,25,177-15-1 and no further rent is demanded if a Grass field of a Ryot farm is converted into arable and vice versa, but if the Grass lands are added permanently to the arable part of the farm, they are charged with full rent. Each Ryot is now allowed to have one-fifth of his farm in grass for which he pays only grass rent, and which he is allowed to retain as such under all circumstances. If he has more and another Ryot offers the survey rent for it, the holder must either pay it, or relinquish the land.

8. It will be understood from this, that the settlement, annually made in Coimbatore is now with each Ryot for his farm. The survey rent is the standard by which the settlement is regulated, and all deviations from it are in favor of the Ryot. Thus the remission upon the survey rent of the lands occupied in Fuzly 1232 amounts to above 5 lacs of Rupees. The rents increase with the increased means of the Ryot, either as the Grass lands are converted into arable, or as the rents of the Cowle lands advance towards the standard of the survey. The increase to the Revenue in the current year from the lands held upon Cowle and from grass lands converted into arable is Rs. 70,989-11-10.

9. Waste lands yielding a rent of Rs. 52,823-4-10, have this year been brought into cultivation, and lands occupied last year and which paying a rent of Rs. 22,489-12-1 have been relinquished. The net increase to the Revenue therefore from waste lands brought into the rent roll this year is Rs. 30,333-8-9. Notwithstanding the present high settlement, with so much moderation are all the survey rates now applied, that the rents of the lands included in it do not exceed on the average Rs. 1-1-5½ per acre.

10. Of the unoccupied lands, the survey value of which is Rs. 7,49,747-7-2 nearly one-half is composed of Hills, or covered with Jungle and Forests. The survey value of the lands unoccupied and immediately fit for the Plough is Rs. 4,15,940-7-1.

11. The proportion which the Waste land bear to the Cultivated varies materially in different parts of the District. In the Talooks of Cheekoragherry, Palladam and Polachy, in the Southern Division and in Eroad in the Northern Division the proportion of land occupied and paying rent is above Rs. 80 per cent of the whole. In Coligall, Andoor and Danaiguncottah it is below Rs. 30. The average rents of the Southern Talooks, are considerably lower than those of the Northern Divisions, although they possess superior advantages in soil, and other localities. Eroad altho' the highest assessed Talook in the Province and possessing no peculiar local advantages is in as high a state of cultivation as any Talook in the Southern Division, the proportion of cultivated land to waste being 81 per cent.

Vide No. 1 in Iyacent statement No. 1.
 Vide No. 2 in Do.
 Vide No. 3 in Do.
 Vide No. 4 in Do.
 Vide No. 5 in Do.

Vide No. 6 in Iyacent statement.
 Vide No. 7 in Do.

Vide No. 1 in statement No. 7.

Vide No. 2 in statement No. 7.
 Vide No. 3 in Do.
 Vide No. 4 in Do.

Vide No. 8 in Iyacent No. 1.
 Vide No. 9 in Do.

12. The most beneficial effects have followed the reductions which were made in the assessments of the rice lands of the Talooks of Eroad and Gopeechettypolliam in Fuzly 1230, the number of Cawnies cultivated in that year were 6381 C. and the Revenue derived from them Rs. 96,782-4-11. In the present Fuzly the number of Cawnies under cultivation is 7,596, which produce a Revenue of Rs. 1,09,663-12-5. The increase of cultivation is Cawnies 1,214 and of Revenue Rs. 12,881-7-6.

13. The Original Nunjee assessments of the Eroad Talook were immoderately high. There are still considerably higher than the rents of any other lands in the District. They average Rs. 16-3-0 the Cawney. I propose with the sanction of the Board to make still further reductions, in the highest assessed lands. The holders of those lands are entitled to this further indulgence because the original assessments fixed upon them were intended merely as an experiment. The Talooks of Eroad or Andoor, were the first surveyed and assessed. The assessments were found after a years trial to exceed considerably the means of the people. A considerable reduction was therefore made in the rates of assessment adopted for the other parts of the District. It was intended to have equalized the whole, but this has never been done, and Eroad and Andoor have continued to pay according to the original rates.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Present assessment of the Eroad Nunjee P. C.	16	3	0
Of the other Talooks	9	6	0
Difference	6	13	0
or 75 per cent.			
Average assessment of the 12 Talooks	3	9	4
Do. Eroad	3	15	0
Difference	0	5	5½
or 94 per cent.			
Andoor	3	11	3½
Difference	0	1	9
or 3 per cent.			

14. As almost all the Dry lands in Eroad are rented, there appears no necessity for making any reduction in the assessments upon them. A great deal of the rice lands is still waste, and will remain untenanted until the rents are lowered.

15. In Andoor partly heavy rents, and partly from the incursions of Wild Elephants, the Revenue has gradually declined. It will be necessary to make partial reductions in the Poonjee assessments of that Talook. During the present year the Nunjee assessments of Perindura, Andoor, Dharapooram, Coligal and Cheoor, have been revised and partial remissions made to the extent of Rs. 2,946-14-11.

16. Arrangements are in progress for remitting, or commuting, the additional rent now levied upon rice lands which yield at times two crops in the year. The impolicy of continuing this tax is pointed out in the Board's Proceedings under date the 14th August 1820, and instructions for its discontinuance in the coming Fuzly have been transmitted accordingly.

17. All these reductions for the benefit of the Ryot may be made without any sacrifice of present Revenue. Capital and stock are accumulating so fast in most parts of the District, that with easy rents, every acre of good land will soon be brought into Cultivation and in a few years, yield the full Survey rent. Several proposals have lately been made to rent, for a term of years deserted or Villages the Revenue of which is rapidly declining from the incursions of Elephants. These proposals have been readily acceded to. It is an object of great importance to get people established in and near the Jungles, who have a deep interest in putting a stop to the ravages of this destructive animal. Revenue is an object of inferior consideration, but even in this respect, a great deal will be gained by renting Villages of this description, some yield nothing now, and judging from the rapid deterioration which has taken place of late years in their produce, of those which still yield a small Revenue there is every prospect of that little being soon altogether lost. I have the honor to submit enclosure No. 8 a detailed Statement of the Villages so rented, and request confirmation of the terms from the Board and from Government.

18. The great importance of the Garden Cultivation to the Revenue of this District has been stated in a former report. The number of Bullas under Garden Cultivation in Fuzly 1231 was B. 39,132-13/16 which yielded a Revenue of Rs. 5,00,112-2-11. The number included in the Settlement of the Current year is B. 40,157-8/16, assessed at Rs. 5,32,130-10-2. This is not more a temporary increase of Revenue but an addition to the private landed property of the District.

Vide No. 10 in Iyacent statement No. 1.

19. The number of Pattahs issued to land holders in Fuzly 1231 was 1,00,357. In the present year the number has increased to 1,05,647.

RS. A. P.

20. The Collections to the end of April Fuzly 1231	
amounted to	18,15,047 10 2
The Collections of the same period in the	
present Fuzly	18,89,311 10 0
<u>Increase</u>	<u>74,263 15 10</u>

21. It is not intended by the preceeding observations to hold out a prospect of Coimbatore being able to pay a revenue equal to the Current year's Settlement in all seasons. In a bad year there will probably be a decrease upon it of from Rs. 30 to 40,000 but when the resources of the District are fully developed, it does appear probable, that in average seasons an equal amount will be easily realized.

22. Mr. Sub-Collector Munro's report on the Settlement of the Talooks under his charge is contained in enclosure No. 10. I shall take an early opportunity of bringing the question which has recently arisen regarding the Poligars of Dhelly before the Board.

23. With reference to Para 3, it is necessary to explain, that the Land Revenue Settlement of Fuzly 1212 was Rs. 21,17,554-9-1. It exceeds therefore the Settlement of the present Fuzly in the sum only of Rs. 3,620-0-0. Many items of Sournadayam and Moturppla were included in the Settlement of Fuzly 1212 which have since been abolished. These served to swell the Revenue of that year to an unusual extent. In point of fact therefrom the Province of Coimbatore, now yields the same, or very nearly the same amount of Revenue, as it did in the first year, that the Original overwhelming survey assessments were in operation. It yields as far as my information goes, as large a Revenue, as has ever been realized from it, within the memory of man. This is the good effect of a very moderate land tax, which is partially modified every year, so as to meet the circumstances of the land holder. The Survey assessment is the Maximum demand, all deviations from it are in favour of the Ryot. What has been said regarding the Cowle and grass lands is illustrative of this, a more striking instance is afforded in present Settlement of the rice lands of Erood and Gopeechettypollam, &c. The original Survey assessments of the lands amounted Rs. 5,59,741-13-6. From this a reduction has been made in Fuzlies 1230, 1231, and 1232 of Rs. 50,777-11-10 which leaves 5,08,964-1-8, as the standard demand upon the land. The lands are now let upon Cowle, and the Settlement of the present year yields only Rs. 4,47,418-6-11, the difference between the Survey assessment and the Settlement Rs. 61,545-10-9 will be made good in succeeding years.

24. The great draw back upon this prosperous state of things arises from the invincible corruption of the Native Revenue Servants. It is not a corruption which affects in any material degree the public Revenue. There is less of that sort of delinquency here perhaps than in other Districts, but there is I believe more of Bribery or speaking more correctly of extortions—scarcely any business is done without a donceur passing into the hands of some person belonging to Catcherry. It is some consolation to think that this state of things arises out of the improved means of the people, who are able and do give very large sums, for obtaining no more than their rights. During the last year I was under the necessity of dismissing 3 of my Moonshies for being concerned in transaction of this kind, and I should have dismissed one of the Sheristadars, if he had not anticipated my intention by resigning his office. The only remedy for this evil is the removal and dismissal of servants, but this is beyond measure worse than the disease. The most serious inconvenience has been experienced in this district from the frequent changes that have taken place in the Native Department. Still where charges of corruption have been proved against a Native servant, the expression of public opinion is so strong if the man is continued in office, that the Collector can do no

otherwise than bend to it. There are of course some very praise worthy exceptions to this general Character of the Native Servants,—the corruption however is very general, and this state of things exists where the head of the Native Department is a man of unimpeached integrity, and when there is certainly no want of vigilance in the European Superintendents.

25. I have repeatedly stated my opinion that the Evil might be partially checked by declaring in a short Regulation Bribery and Corruption Criminal offence punishable by the Magistrate and the Criminal Judge as the case might be, and from my own knowledge of what exists here, I am induced again to press the subject again upon the notice of the Board.

I have the honor to be,

with much respect

Gentlemen,

Your most Obedient Servant,

OOTACAMAND,
30th April 1823.

(Sd.) JOHN SULLIVAN,
Principal Collector.

To

THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE
BOARD OF REVENUE.

GENTLEMEN,

With reference to Mr. Secretary Clarke's letter of the 10th ultimo relative to the Guzzlehutty and Cauverypooram passes, it appears necessary to explain that my recommendation for the repair of the latter, grew out of a question put by the Honorable the Court of Directors in their Despatch of the 12th December 1821 and extract of which was forwarded to me *viz.* "whether or not means could be derived for putting a stop to the distresses which the inhabitants suffered from the march of Troops by Guzzlehutty." The cause of this distress is the impracticability of the Guzzlehutty pass for wheel carriages. The simple way of obviating it appeared to be find another Ghaut which could be made fit for wheel carriages to traverse. The Cauverypooram pass offers this facility, and without—as appears by the Quarter Master General's statement—increasing the distance of the march in any material degree. The Quarter Master General has discussed the question entirely with a view to the movement of the Troops. In recommending the repair of the Cauverypooram pass I had primarily in view the relief of the inhabitants, and object which the Honorable Court seemed to have much at heart. The repair of the Guzzlehutty Ghaut is certainly a most desirable object, it should be clearly understood however that when the repair is made the people will suffer as much distress as they do now, and always have done from the march of troops. The Ghaut cannot be made practicable for wheel carriages about 10 years ago an attempt was made to obtain this desirable end. The old pass was abandoned and a new road formed from the head to the foot of the Ghaut by a Battg. of the Pioneers, who under experienced officers were employed nearly for three years upon the work, such however is the steepness of the Ghaut in one place, that no carriage can be drawn up it. The movements of the Troops however will be greatly facilitated by putting this road in the state it was when the Pioneers finished it and I request to know whether Captain Melleson and the coolies who are now working under him may upon the termination of their present labors be employed upon the pass.

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2. I take this opportunity of stating for the information of Government that the road which I was authorized to make up the Neelagherry mountains is completed. The particulars of the work is detailed in the enclosed copy of a letter from the Superintendent (Capt. McPherson). The road has been useful not only to persons who visit the Hills for health and amusement but for the people in general. A very active trade is now carried on between the mountains and the low Country. There was formerly no intercourse and during a partial scarcity of grain which prevailed last year, large supplies were brought down on bullocks from the mountains. The communications between the two Coasts across the mountains is now almost complete. It may be made perfect by a further expenditure of not more than Rs. 5,000. The road so finished would be of great public utility and as the expense comparatively speaking would be trifling, I request permission to lay out this further sum upon it and to retain the services of the Superintendent Capt. McPherson and the Pioneers until the work is completed.

I have the honor to be, etc.,

NEELAGHERY HILL,
20th May 1823.

(Signed.) J. SULLIVAN,
Principal Collector.

To

THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE
BOARD OF REVENUE.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honor to forward the statement of stamp paper required in Mr. Morris's letter of the 27th January (received here in March.)

2. The price of all the papers entered in this statement was paid by the persons executing the deeds and not by the Government. All the engagements will expire with the current Fuzly, except those which relate to the Tobacco monopoly and the leases of ten villages. The former of these will run until the end of the ensuing Fuzly 1233, the others till Fuzly 1241.

3. I am much inclined to think that the general effects of the rule contained in Section IX Regulation XIII of 1816 have on the whole been injurious to the morals and interests of the natives. The unsuspecting confidence with which money and all commercial dealings were carried on between natives merely upon the word, or the signature to an account, of the parties engaged in them, was one of the most favorable traits in the Native Character. Since the introduction of stamp papers, they have been taught a degree of trickery and dishonesty, which they were before strangers to. Formerly a Merchant would have been disgraced in his Cast who refused to pay a debt because his Creditor could not produce the claim in a formal shape. There is no longer any fear of such a penalty following a dishonest Act. No man engaged in trade is safe, who has not all his transactions registered upon stamp paper. It appears to me, that the Law might with great safety be immediately modified, so far as to exempt all engagements in which the Government is a party from being executed on stamp paper.

I have the honor to be,

Gentlemen,

Your most Obedient Servant,

(Sd.) J. SULLIVAN,
Collector.

OOTACAMUND,
May 16th 1823.

