North Arcot

No. 7

Collector's Cutcherry
Goomadeepoondy 10th January 18[illegible]

From J. Goldingham Esquire
Collector of North Arcot.
To J. D. Bourdillon Esquire
Secretary to the Board of Revenue
Fort Saint George.

Sir,

Rev. Departt. Procd.
Mins. Board dated 17th May 1842.

The Carvetinggur Zemindary was attached, as the Board are aware, in the month of May for arrears of Peshcush. I have now the honor to submit the following accounts explanatory of the settlement for Fusly 1251 (A.D. 1841/42) to report on the present condition of the Estate, the liabilities of the Zemindar, his power to meet these, and the course proper to be pursued in future in regard to the management of the Estate.

2. The Estate is divided into 3 Talooks Viz: Narnavaram, Pullypet and Tirttany and comprises 783½ Villages, these are distributed as follows:

Amany Villages	480½
Rented Ditto	92½
Alienated Villages	210½
	783½

particulars of the alienated Villages are as follows

Shrotium	138½
Sarva Dombalah	3
Jaghire	4
Charity Choultries	13
Devastanums	28
Rajah Bundoowalloo	5
Amarams	15
Mahalat granted for the private expenses of his relations	2
Ancobogum	1
Subsistence	1
	210½

Of the 210½ Villages 45 were granted by the Grandfather and Father of the present Zemindar and 10 Villages by the present Zemindar. Jodi is payable on all the alienated Villages, with the exception of Sarva Dombalah and Mahalat viz. 42½ Villages. The Revenue given up to the Holders is Rupees 42,285-10-5.—

3. The Settlement was made according to the arrangement concluded by the Zemindar with the Ryots during the Faslys. It appears that a fixed money assessment has always prevailed in this Estate for the Poonjah and Garden cultivation. The assessment on Nunjah cultivation is partly in ready money and partly in Grain. The Amount though fixed is high and varies according to the description of the articles sown, though apparently on the land, the assessment in reality is on the Produce. About 78 years ago under Vencata Permaul Rauz, the Father of the present Zemindar, an attempt was made by the Dewan Rungarow Chingalrow to introduce a fixed assessment on the land without reference to produce. Eighty eight Villages in the Zemindary Talook were accordingly settled on this principle; the settlement in these 88 Villages as then made still obtains. This appears to have been the only modification of the original assessment. Both the original assessment and the modified assessment in the 88 Villages noticed are high, the amount is not realized and a large remission is granted in each year. In a few cases this remission does not appear to have satisfied the Ryot and his land is therefore held under the Sharing System

See also letter from Collector dated 28th June 1839 Paras 19 and enclosure No. 3.

The

[illegible] new settlement, without reference to [illegible], introduced by the late [illegible], was not carried into effect throughout the zemindary generally owing to the high rate of assessment [illegible] fifths to fix. [illegible] and the only true principle of assessment was lost from a want of moderation in the demand. The land held under the [illegible] system [illegible]. The assessment of such land in Fusly 1251 was only Rupees 2059-15-..

4. The season of Fusly 1251 (A.D. 1841/42) was on the whole favorable. The rains set in favorably in the month of May and though an interval of drought of about 40 Days followed, there was an abundant fall from July to October; during the interval of drought the Crops previously sown were injured and in some instances lost, but the favorable character of the season after this brought much land under cultivation and the general result of the year exhibits an increase in the settlement amounting to Rupees 34983-11-6.

5. The total settlement of Fusly 1251 (A.D. 1841/42) including [illegible] was Rupees 367394-8 [illegible]; the settlement of Fusly 1250 (A.D. 1840/41) was

Land Revenue 349969-2-2
Moturpha — 17425-6-2
Total 367394-8-4

Rupees 332410-12-10: an increase of Rupees 34983-11-6 in favor of the Fusly under report being thus exhibited.

6. The particulars composing the settlement of this year are as follows —

Land Revenue after deduction	250414.12.2
[illegible] Collections	19904.1.5
Moturpha	4,303.9.2
Sundry small Farms	4017.14.1
Offerings at the Pagoda on the hill at Tirupaty	3865..
Extra Revenue	7122.1.3
Rented Villages	4479..
[illegible] Inams	10[illegible].4.7
Chotrium Inams	1213.3.7 / 10877.5.4
Jodi on certain Villages	43267.12.1
	367394.8.4

Land Revenue
Rs. 250414-12-2

7. It was already observed that the assessment is high and has to be adjusted annually by a large amount of Remission. This Remission is termed "Cowl [illegible]". During the minority when the estate was under the Officers of Government the "Cowl [illegible]" does not appear to have been separately exhibited. It is important that this item should be shewn as the prevailing assessment is better understood when the nature and extent of this

Remission is explained. Under this head land cultivated in Coral is included as well as the difference between the rent at one time of Narafut land and the amount of the original assessment of such lands. The administration of the affairs of the estate has been very lax and irregular and the Curnums as well as the officers of the Zemindar have given up lands in favour of the Ryots according to their will, without reference to any fixed rule. Allowances very large on the above and loss of Revenue which this practice entails. The amount of "Coral Byaget" for Fusly 1231 is Rupees 64017-14-4, being about 18 per Cent of the assessment.

Assessment 352824-14-
Coral Byaget 64017-14-4

8. In addition to the "Coral Byaget" the Ryot receives remission on account of loss of Crops: the amount deducted from the assessment under this head in Fusly 1231 was Rupees 30463-7-9 which is classed as follows,

Palamuttee or Loss of Produce	15878.4-11
Thavee or Crops ...	14571.6.10
Land covered with water in the bed of Tank	13-12.-
	Rupees 30463.7.9

9. "Palamuttee" is granted when the Produce partially fails. Poonjah Crops are not included in this privilege but when Poonjah land is cultivated with wet Crops Remission under this head is granted in case of failure. Both "Palamuttee" and "Thavee" are large and the amount is swelled in consequence of the wet cultivation not being regulated with reference to the quantity of water in the Tanks. It appears to be customary to sow more land than can be fully supplied with water, leaving the deficiency of Produce to be afterwards adjusted under the heads of "Palamuttee" and "Thavee." This practice is obviously ruinous both to the Proprietor and the Ryot. Large Remissions become necessary unless the season is unusually favorable.

10. A sum of Rupees 1906-13-6 was allowed on account of Durkhastee and Rupees 21-14-5 as Serguaree. The last mentioned is a deduction in favor of certain Poligars and Commanders.

Assessment		352824.14.2
Deductions.		
Coral Byaget	64017.14.4	
Loss of Produce	30463.7.9	
Durkhastee	1906.13.6	
Serguaree	21.14.5	96410.2.-
	Net	256414.12.2

11. The total deduction amounts to Rupees 96410-2-, leaving a net amount of Settlement of Rupees 256414-12-2.

Sayerbyaget on Ready Money Collections Rupees 1990-1-5.

12. The ready money collections amount

amount to Rupees 19904-1-5. The several items composing this source of Revenue are shown in the accompanying Statement No. 1. The collections principally are levied on Grain, Ghee and Tank Fishing. The remainder consists for the most part of Taxes and Perquisites enjoyed by the Zemindar, commuted into fixed payments.

Sewer Mohturpha Rupees 4303-9-2.

13. The items comprising the Sewer Mohturpha are as follows

Amendy	673.4.7
Retail Shops	1006.6.7
Wholesale Ditto	53.0.0
Looms	2440.6.5
Oil Presses	100.9.1
Iron Furnaces	5.11.11
Collections from the merchants at Puttyput for the Pagoda at that places	23.12.7
	4,303.9.2.

Sundry Small Farms Rupees 4917-11-1.

The Sundry small Farms consist of Rupees 3810-10-5 under rent and Rs 1107-3-8 under aumany, making an aggregate of Rs 4917.11.1. The rented portion is derived chiefly from the rent of Palmyra and Date Trees the Toddy which is used for the manufacture of Sugar, and items termed Chetty-Sungatum or sums paid by individuals who have the settlement of Caste Disputes, and certain Jungle Produce. The aumany portion is a tax for cutting firewood and also for collecting materials for Building, both the Produce of the Jungles in the Estate.

Pagoda Offerings. Rupees 3865-0-0

15. The offerings at the Pagoda on the Hill at Tripatty form one of the Zemindary assets; they are included in the assets for Fusly 1251 but will be excluded in future, according to the principle observed in regard to other Pagodas. The Zemindar will receive the offerings in future. The Pagoda is supported by grants of land made by former Zemindars.

Extra Revenue Rupees 7122-1-5.

16. The Extra Revenue is derived from Fines for trespass, termed Bandaumah Sherianah, from Inam lands belonging to absent holders or Inamdars of Pagodas in which the Poojah has ceased, from the sale of old Trees and other similar items. The principle item is Inams of absent holders and Inamdars of decayed Pagodas.

Rented Villages Rupees 44721-15-10.

17. A Separate Statement has been drawn up showing the particulars of the rented Villages, to whom rented,

to

for what amount and the Being of former Fuslies. It will be seen that about 2/3 of the rented amount has been given up to certain creditors of the Zemindar and the Estate has been attached for arrears of Peishcush due to Government. These assignments and Mortgages cannot be recognized, but the rent will continue unless the Renters express an unwillingness to retain them. One Renter has already signified his intention to this effect, and it is not improbable that others will be inclined to follow the same course when it is seen that the collection of the full amount of Rent will be enforced. In regard to the other rented villages on which no assignments or Mortgages exist, the Renters will be required to fulfil their engagements and in the event of failure such arrangements will be made as may be found necessary for the security of the Revenue. —

Fully assigned Villages } 17190-4-"
Villages held on Mortgage } 13723-5-10
30913-9-10

18. The Collections in three Villages have been hitherto made by the Zemindar and the expenses of the institutions defrayed by him. It appeared desirable the arrangement should continue and the management has been accordingly given back to the Zemindar. This item will not consequently appear in future.

Devastanum & Chuttrum Rupees 16877-5-4

[illegible] certain Villages Rupees 9267-12-11

19. This is the amount realized on Shrotriums, Amarum and other Villages the Revenue of which have been alienated in part.

Collections. 20. Of the total Demand Rs. 370759-2-9 as particularized below the sum of Rs. 319676-10-4 has been Collected within the Fusly leaving a balance at its close in the amount of Rupees 51082-8-5; of this Rupees 7152-7-11 have been collected since in the month of December 1842 and the balance outstanding is Rs. 43930-"-6.—

Items		Amount collected on account of the arrears due up to Fusly 1250	Amount collected on account of the Being of Fusly 1251 exclusive of Inams	Total
1		2 Rs. as. ps.	3 Rs. as. ps.	4 Rs. as. ps.
Total Demand		20790 " 7	349969 2 2	370759 2 9
Direct Collection	By the Zemindar up to 15th May 1842	20790 " 7	273025 13 3	293815 13 10
	By Government after assumption of the Zemindary from 16th May to 11th July 1842	" " "	25860 12 6	25860 12 6
	Total	20790 " 7	298886 9 9	319676 10 4
Remaining		" " "	51082 8 5	51082 8 5
Deduct the Amount collected to the end of Dec. 1842		" " "	7152 7 11	7152 7 11
Balance Remaining	Due	" " "	40119 5 8	40119 5 8
	Amount of Devastanum Villages	" " "	3810 10 10	3810 10 10
	Total	" " "	43930 " 6	43930 " 6

The

The Debts of the Zemindar Debts
Principal and Interest amount to Rs 342,696-13-9.
A Statement shewing the particulars of the
Principal and the sum paid off by the pre-
sent Zemindar is herewith submitted.
It has been prepared by the Sampreti
of the Zemindar and was obtained with
much trouble from the loose and confused
way in which the accounts are kept.
The probable amount of Interest is
inserted also the probable amount of
the Sundry Debts of the Zemindar as the
particulars of these have not been
furnished. The account is sufficiently
full for the present purpose to shew
the position of the Zemindar in regard
to his Creditors. The Zemindar, it will
be seen, has paid Rs 196,885-3-9 to his
Creditors during the last four years
and this payment consists almost en-
tirely of assignments of the Revenue
of both Rented and Amany Villages
to a large amount. A small portion
has been discharged in ready money.
The Debts amounted in the year 1829
when the estate came under the management From the 7. M. Ct. to the Bd. 28 June 1829 Rupees
of

of the Court of Wards from the mino-
rity of the present Zemindar to Rupees
345,849-3-4. A small sum was paid off
during the minority. The present Zemin-
dar has added 50,400 Principal to the Amount
of Debts, besides Sundry Debts and although
he has paid off the large sum of Rupees
196,885-3-9 towards the liquidation of
the Debts, the Demand against him is
nearly what it was when he came into
possession of the Property. The Zemindar
has been driven to the ruinous course of
assigning the Revenue of his Estate to his
Creditors, at the same time adding to his
incumbrances by fresh Debts.

Account Current 22. It is now proper to examine
the account Current for Fusly 1231. The
Debit side exhibits a receipt of
Rupees 343,684-10-8 of which Rs 300,371-6
besides [illegible] were at the disposal
of the Zemindar before the attachment.
The Cr. side exhibits an expenditure
of Rupees 319,611-9-4 and a Balance in
hand of Rupees 24,073-1-4. Of the expendi-
ture Rupees 1811-13-2 have been paid on
account of Charges of Management
Since

since the settlement and before 1247. 6 7

Reference to Comment ... the details of the expenditure was incurred by the Zemindar are as follows —

The Zemindar's private expenses	46347.6.5
Charges of management by Sarvastadars	12975.1.7
Payment to Creditors	
By Tunkaws on the Revenue	80014.13.1
" Ready Money	20065.0.6
To Ryots for anticipated Kists	30650.3.7
	130730.1.2
Court Charges, Duties, Tank repairs &c.	30981.12.10
Peshcush to Government	79340.0.0
	300374.6.0

the personal expenses of the Zemindar are large considering the embarrassed state of his affairs. No less a sum than Rs. 130730.1.2 has been paid to Creditors either by assignments or in ready money, but chiefly the former. The Zemindar has also fallen into the ruinous course of anticipating the Revenue. ...

The failure of the Zemindar to fulfil his obligations to Government has arisen from Debt. The Annual Revenue of the estate in any but a time in round numbers 3 Lacs of Rupees, the Peshcush payable to Government is 79663, and assuming the Charges of management at Rs. 13,000, an Income of one Lac per annum is left to the Incumbent, which ought to furnish him a large amount of indulgence without trenching on the sum to set aside for the payment of Debts. In the hands of a moderate and enlightened person the Estate free of encumbrances and with its large Surplus Revenue would be a valuable property.

Average from Fusly 1230 to Fusly 1236, 7 years	324032.0.0
Fusly 1237	347570.14.3
During Minority	
Fusly 1238	313231.14.7
Fusly 1239	251016.7.3
Fusly 1240	288657.2.11
Fusly 1241	313205.11.2
Fusly 1250	332410.12.10
Fusly 1251	367394.8.4

24. Referring to the amount of Revenue during Fuslis 1250 and 1251 it will be seen that the resources of the Estate do not exhibit the same decay as the private affairs of the Zemindar. The management as has been already observed, is lax and the system pursued by the Zemindar of assigning Villages to his Creditors would no doubt be attended with the most disastrous consequences ultimately. The present Zemindar has been in possession since Fusly 1242 and as the assignments have been made since Fusly 1247 the deterioration to be expected from the course he has

[illegible] pursuing have not had time to show itself fully. It is the earnest wish of the Zemindar that the Estate should be again placed under his management but adverting to the pressure of his Debts and to the course pursued by him the fulfilment of this wish appears to be quite impracticable. This is the first time that the Estate has been attached for arrears and adverting to the circumstances I feel as anxious as the Zemindar that the management should be entrusted to him but such are the circumstances. I set forth the elements of the question. The Zemindar has no means of satisfying his Creditors without again making over Villages to them and past experience has shown that he cannot do this and at the same time fulfill his engagements to Government. —

25. Supposing then that the Estate is to continue under the Collector it is important 1st to attend to the System of assessment and 2d to provide for the appropriation of the Revenue. —

26. In regard to the first it appears

appears desirable to carry out the intention of Vencata Ramalrow of fixing an assessment on the land without reference to Produce. The attempts of Vencata Ramalrow failed because his demand was too high. It is simply necessary to substitute moderation for an excessive demand. In carrying out this intention but little expense should be incurred; the Talook establishment should examine and check the work of the Village Officers and Ryots. The assessment of Vencata Ramal Row embraced the 3 descriptions of land Viz: Dry, Wet and Garden, each having its separate and Specific assessment. It is for the consideration of the Board whether Garden should not merge into the other two kinds, thus making the assessment according to the quality of the Soil, with an additional demand only when the water provided at the expense of the Circar is used. It is to be observed that Remission is very rarely given in this Estate. This arises not from a better condition of the Ryot but because the chief power rests with the leading members of a Village and the body of the Ryots look to them. The assessment

is

is for any but the Ryot residing in a distance from the Possessions of Chuck Ryacot and Palamuty and thus his condition to a certain extent is maintained —

27. In regard to the second point Viz. the appropriation of the Revenue in each year, it appears desirable that after discharging the current Peshcush and payment of charges of management and subordinates of the Zemindar and a small sum for repairs of Tanks, the remainder should be appropriated towards the payment of arrears of Peshcush and the liquidation of private Debts — The charges for Establishment in the account Current which has been examined above is beyond all reasonable limits. Rupees 1500 per Mensem were allowed during the Minority and the Zemindar has requested that an allowance of Rupees 1000 per Mensem may be given. This request is not unreasonable as the actual expenditure under this head in the account Current Rupees 1500 per Mensem would have been ample. The charges for Repairs of Tanks per mensem should not be large. The Tanks and watercourses have been much neglected

Note: The Zemindar [illegible] no Cultivation in [illegible]

and several Breaches in Tanks not filled up; these should be gradually put into a state of Repair. The several Tanks are now under examination by a Revenue Surveyor and the most important works only will be executed this year. Rupees 8000 per annum will be sufficient for this purpose. Thus assuming the Revenue at 3 Lacs of Rupees per annum, the appropriation of this Sum will be as follows —

Average Revenue	300,000 " "
Charges of Management per Annum	16050 " "
Maramut	8,000 " "
Allowance to the Zemindar	18,000 " "
Peshcush to Government	187,663 " "
	229,713 " "
Surplus	70,287 " "

28. The Surplus will be appropriated towards the liquidation of arrears of Peshcush and of Debts, and as the Government thus give up their prior claim for the benefit of the Zemindar, it is but fair that Interest should be charged on the amount paid to Credi[tors]. In the event of this course being approv[ed] it will be necessary to obtain consent

of Debt from the Zemindar and to make suitable arrangements with the Creditors requiring them to give up the unreasonable portion of their demand.—

29. The present Zemindar has lately resumed certain Kuttoobady Lands and the Holders have complained of this measure, as they have been enjoying it for a long series of years. The measure is justified by the Zemindar on the ground that according to the conditions of the Sunnud he is empowered to resume all Kuttoobady Lands to pay an addition to the Peshcush in consideration of Military service being no longer required of him. According to the correspondence at the time when the arrangements were made, it was clearly understood that the Kuttoobady Lands should be resumed and Peshcush [illegible] have been fixed in [illegible] of [illegible] which have taken place. The claims of the parties individually who now complain are under investigation and if there should appear any ground for a favorable consideration of their case the subject will be brought to the notice of the Board.—

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obt. Servant
(Signed) J. Goldingham
Collector

North Arcot
Collector's Cutchery
Goomadapoondy 10th January 1843.

To
J.D. Bourdillon Esq.
Secretary to the Board of Revenue
Fort St. George