

NO. 73109

OFFICIAL REPORT OF A REVOLT
BY
POLEGAR NARSIMHA REDDY IN KOLICUMA TALUK
WHICH FORMED PART OF CUDDAPAH DISTRICT

1846 - VOL-II



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PAPERS FROM THE OLD RECORDS

OF THE

CUDDAHAN DISTRICT

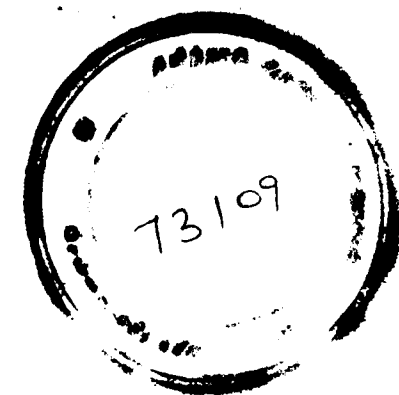
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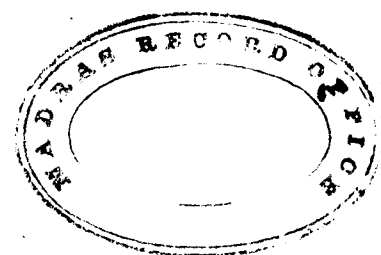
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OFFICIAL REPORT OF A REVOLT

BY

Polegar Narsimha Reddy in Koilcuntla Taluk

(which formed part of Cuddapah District)

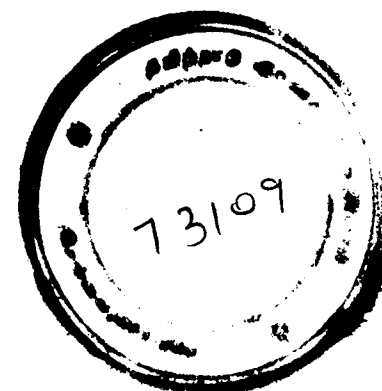
in 1846

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CUDDAPAH SPECIAL COMMISSIONER'S COURT,
19th January 1847.

No. 48.

FROM

W. A. D. INGLIS Esq.,
Special Commissioner at Cuddapah.

TO

SIR H. C. MONTGOMERY BART,
OFFICIATING SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT,
Fort St. George.

Sir,

The trials of persons committed by the Magistracy as having been concerned in the late disturbances in the Cuddapah district, have now been nearly all completed, and the proceedings held are being referred as fast as the translations can be made; and as it is not likely that many more cases will be committed, or that anything further material will be elicited in regard to the origin and causes of the outbreak, I proceed to report on the different points regarding which Government have required information to be supplied. These points appear to be as follows:—viz, "The specific causes proximate and remote of the late disturbances, the immediate cause which led the Poligar Narasimha Reddi to take up arms against the Government, and the causes of the disaffection of the Cuttoobady peons who joined him" to each of which points, I shall advert as briefly as possible.

1. With regard to the remote causes of the outbreak, I think that the frequent changes in the office of Collector in this district within the last 10 or 12 years, have undoubtedly tended in a great measure to produce the state of affairs, which ended in open rebellion. For many years, a prejudice seems to have very generally prevailed against the district, owing probably to the heat of the climate of the Town of Cuddapah during a portion of the year, the vast extent of the district, and the arduous nature of the duty with the want of compensating circumstances, such as the society and means of recreation obtainable in other districts, and in consequence Cuddapah came to be viewed both by Collectors and acting Collectors merely as a stepping stone to an appointment in a more favourite locality.

3. A reference to the Gazette will, I believe, show that including Collectors, acting Collectors, and Sub-Collectors in charge, the number of changes has been upwards of twelve, since Mr. Lacon (the last gentleman who held the office long) was Collector; and I believe that most of the gentlemen so appointed, were ignorant of the language of the district, and had little or no previous experience in it.

4. It seems to me quite natural, and it has doubtless often occurred, that acting Collectors who are of course always anxious for a permanent appointment, and permanently appointed Collectors, who dislike a district and are anxious to leave it, should be desirous to lose no time in recommending themselves to Government by showing their zeal in bringing forward seeming abuses in the district in which they are, and in pointing out imperfections in the system of such district; and that in their anxiety to do so, they should be apt to overlook, and not sufficiently consider, the history and customs of the district, the nature of the tenures of land and the rights and feelings of the people, whereas the very same individuals, if permanently appointed, and satisfied with their situation, might probably hesitate to embarrass themselves by raising discussions prematurely on subjects not long, and well weighed and considered. There are many other obvious ways, but which need not be dwelt on here, in which frequent changes in the office of Collector and Magistrate, most necessarily be injurious, such as injudicious selections for the situations of Head of Police, and other important, though minor, appointments from want of personal knowledge of the respective qualifications of applicants, inefficient supervision of the Police from want of local knowledge, and acquaintance with the language of the district, etc. What I have thus alluded to generally, seems in my humble opinion to have been long going on in a very marked manner in Cuddapah, which leads me to the more immediate causes of the disturbances in the district.

5. I have been aware for several years of the prevalence of excitement, alarm, and discontent throughout the district, owing to rumours current, regarding the correspondence carrying on, and the measures intended with respect to the Bhatwarty as well as to the Cuttoobady Inams, which was much increased by the measures adopted within the last 18 months; and although it was the resumption of certain Cuttoobady Inams, which immediately led to the insurrection, yet, I am satisfied that the discontent occasioned by the measures adopted regarding the Bhatwarty Inams, caused the upper classes generally to view it much more favourably than they would otherwise have done the knowledge of which general feeling, doubtless encouraged many of the leading insurgents to make themselves more prominent in the outbreak than they would otherwise have ventured to do; and I feel therefore that if I omitted to advert particularly to the latter subject also, I should fail to convey to Government a true picture of the state of affairs, and the feelings of the people here; and I shall therefore enter as briefly as possible into this branch of the subject before proceeding to describe the measures adopted regarding the Cuttoobady Inams, and the consequences of them.

6. The Bhatwarty Inams of this district are extensive, rent free landed tenures held by different classes, but generally by Brahmins, as is implied by the term which signifies simply "Grants to Brahmans". Under this head, and that of Khyratee, are comprised all the Inams in the district being less than a whole village, not service lands or granted on some specific account, and bearing a corresponding designation. Of the latter, there are many different heads, but the total amount is comparatively small; and they are therefore unimportant, as are also the Khyratee Inams. The Bhatwarty Inams bear a value according to the survey assessment of, I believe, upwards of 6 lacs of rupees per annum. The exact amount, I am unable to state from memory, and have not the means of immediate reference to the Collector's office, that officer being at a distance, nor is positive accuracy on this point of importance. The real annual value is of course much less, as the lands are not all cultivated, and those cultivated are usually taken by the Circar ryots on terms lower than the assessment. In treating therefore of Bhatwarty Inams, it must be borne in mind that that term comprises in fact almost the whole rent free land of the district, exclusive of the shrotriem and Agraharam villages, the former of which generally pay some quit rent; and that these Inams have afforded the only opening by which any native of this vast district, who by his industry acquired wealth, was enabled to obtain by purchase, rent free land, which, in this country as elsewhere, is an object of the greatest ambition with all. The cultivation of these inams under certain restrictions by the Circar ryots, has also been in reality a great assistance to them, and in consequence a source of general prosperity to the district; for no ryot would cultivate an inam from which he is liable to be ousted at will, unless he got it on very favourable terms much below the assessment in general.

7. The Bhatwarty Inamdars are a large body of native gentry, many of them possessing considerable estates, comprising lands in many different villages, while others have but small holdings—some of them are in the public service, others are engaged in commerce; but a great number live on their properties, and subsist on the produce and rents of them. They have held their estates for 47 years, or since the cession of the country in fee simple, or as private property, having perfect liberty to alienate them by gift, or sale, and were happy and contented, feeling certain from their confidence in the good faith of the British Government, that while it has not been the practice to make new grants, no changes would be made in regard to old tenures. Their feelings now however are of a far different nature.

8. In 1845, the Board of Revenue having come to the conclusion that Bhatwarty inams were of the nature of the charitable allowances mentioned in clause 2 Regulation IV of 1831, instructed the Collector to object through the Government vakil to the jurisdiction of the Courts over these inams to prohibit any transfer of them by gift, or sale, and to report all cases of deaths of present incumbents for the special orders of Government; which instructions have been strictly acted up to. Accordingly, when an inamdar dies, his lands are attached immediately, and his family, even when he has left sons, are kept in a state of anxiety and suspense for months; and when the order for continuing the inam arrives, (if such is the order), the heir is informed that he receives the estate of his ancestors not as his hereditary right, but as the bounty of Government, and for his life only. The people here generally know nothing

about the Regulations enacted by the Government, or the constructions which may be put on them, and only learn the intentions of the Government from the enforcement of their orders by the local officers. They now feel no confidence in the permanency of anything, and commonly say "in what can we now trust?" "and in what respect is the Company's Government better than former Governments?"

9. When the Collector made his application to the Court objecting to its jurisdiction over Bhatwarty inams, I repeatedly requested to be furnished with an exposition of the grounds of such objection, but could obtain none except copy of the Board's instructions to him, and of a letter from the Board to Government, dated 14th August 1845, in which it was mentioned that in a glossary of revenue terms, Bhatwarty inams were defined to be "grants mostly of a religious or charitable nature." The Board of Revenue, doubtless, may have other and better grounds for their opinion, but this was the only one stated, and accordingly I, as Civil Judge, over-ruled the said application for reasons stated in my Proceedings of the 2nd June 1846, in which I alluded to the anxiety prevailing through the district, and adverting to the importance of the subject, stated that under any circumstances I thought it desirable that it should be brought before the highest judicial authorities, and that any change in the practice of the courts in a matter of such consequence should originate with them.

10. The following is, as far as I know, all that can be said on both sides of the question. In Sir Thomas Munro's instructions to surveyors, he directed that all sundry inams having no specific designation, under which they could be classed, should be entered, if belonging to Muhammadans, as "KHYRATEE," and, if belonging to Hindoos, as "BHATVARTY;" in-framing which order, he, of course, could not foresee what construction might be put on it, in connection with regulations subsequently passed. Consequently, in the abstract list in the cutcherry classifying inams, Khyratee, and Bhatwarty inams are bracketed together as Dharmadayam or secular, as distinguished from Devadayam or religious grants. Then come service inams of different kinds, and lastly Pallekattu, Kota, &c., or such as have a specific designation denoting their origin. The term "Dharma" is one of very extended signification, but the translation, which I have given of Dharmadayam as distinguished from Devadayam, is, I believe, the correct one. Hence, has arisen, as I imagine, the idea that Bhatwarty and Khyratee inams are similar and are both of the nature of the charitable allowances mentioned in section 2, Regulation IV of 1831. Khyratee inams are really in some measure of a religious or charitable nature, being mostly small grants in many instances, connected with the preservation and care of Mahommadan tombs. Sir Thomas Munro ordered such inams of Mahommadans as had previously no specific designation to be classed as Khyratee, simply because he knew that they were mostly of a charitable nature, as the term implies, and the inams of Hindus to be classed as Bhatwarty because he knew that almost all of them belonged to Brahmins.

11. The Yeomials mentioned in Section II, Regulation IV of 1831, are small allowances in money of an eleemosynary nature granted by the native Governments, and continued by the British Government. They are also in this district in many instances connected with the sweeping and care of Mahommadan Tombs, and correspond with the grants in land called "Khyratee;" and the term "charitable allowances" in the above mentioned enactment, seems to me to be merely used as an explanation of Yeomials.

12. No appeal to the Court of Sudr Udalt has, yet, that I am aware of, been made against my decision as Civil Judge, but as an intention of making one was intimated—the decision of suits regarding Bhatwarty inams, and the sale of such as were attached in execution of decrees, have been suspended in the meantime; but the Collector continues to attach the lands in all cases of deaths of the present incumbents. What the decision of the Sudr UDALAT in appeal might be, I, of course, cannot tell; but I hope that the Government may see the question in the same light that I do, and see fit to interfere at once, because even if the extensive, and in many cases, ancient landed tenures alluded to, could be made out to be of an eleemosynary nature and liable to resumption at pleasure by means of a strained construction of a portion of a Government regulation of which regulation the people have really no knowledge, and which construction even has been brought forward only many years after the passing of the said Regulation and extension of it by Act XXX of 1836, yet, it would be

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better to rescind the enactment than to prolong and perpetuate the discontent and distrust in the good faith of Government, which whether justly or not, certainly now prevails, and which would be ill repaid by any increase of revenue derived from the gradual absorption of these inams. Besides, it is questionable whether any great permanent increase of revenue would be really obtained by the resumption of the whole of them, because the extinction of so large a body of resident land holders, would probably have a very deteriorating influence on the trade and manufactures of the district, and consequently on the prices of produce, and the general prosperity of the District, which hitherto has been such that I believe the revenue has been gradually on the increase, although probably less has been done for the improvement of this district, than of any other; and the revenue has been paid with a punctuality not exceeded if equalled in any other district.

13. There is one portion of the inams in this district which appears hitherto to have escaped observation, although they, of all, would form the most proper and legitimate objects of resumption. They are of different kinds, and are entered in the accounts as *amanat* inams. When the claims to inams after the cession of this district had been in great part investigated and decided on, there remained a good many in each talook of a doubtful nature, but which there was not, from pressure of other business, time to investigate fully at once, and as the parties claimed to have been long in possession, they were allowed to continue so on giving security annually for the rent of them, pending a full and final investigation of their claims. The pressure of duty has been such ever since that, that investigation has never yet been made, and the parties remain generally in possession still; but as their claims were originally doubtful and have never been established by them, and as they never received any guarantee but rather the reverse, these inams might, I think, without injustice, be resumed on lapses occurring, if such measures should be thought proper. It may also be remarked that the cultivation of circar waste land, of which there is plenty, would no doubt be greatly extended if, by improving the road to the presidency now barely passable for carts, and opening the passes in the two chains of mountains which obliquely intersect the district, facilities were given for carrying produce to the best markets; and that would form the most desirable source of increase of revenue.

14. I now proceed to advert to the measures adopted regarding the Cuttoobaddy inams. It appears that previous to the year 1839, attention having been drawn to the prevalence of gang robberies in this district, some correspondence took place between the Magistrate and the Judicial authorities, in which various opinions were broached as to the causes to which the existing state of affairs should be attributed. In submitting on the 26th August 1839, a report on the subject called for by Government, Mr. Blane, then Collector and Magistrate, and who had held the situation at that time for about one year, having officiated in it for a short time at a former period, adverted to the large bodies of Cuttoobaddy peons located in particular villages and in certain taluks only, while in some taluks there were few or none of that class, and suggested the idea of remodelling the village police, in which he included the Cuttoobaddies, so as to effect a more equal distribution of them through the district.

15. This idea was approved of by the Board of Revenue, who since, that period, have continued to carry on a correspondence at intervals with the Collector calling for reports and statements with the view of submitting the plan for the approbation of Government as soon as it was matured. The last report forwarded was by the present Ag. Collector on the 15th December 1845, submitting certain information and statements called for.

16. It is not necessary here to enter into the details of the correspondence, but only to remark that Government, when the subject has come casually before them, have, while waiting the full development of the plan, expressed their doubts as to the expediency of the proposed measures. I may also mention that during the short time I acted as Collector previously to receiving my present permanent appointment, I took no part in the said correspondence, and, had I been called to do so, was prepared then to have remonstrated strenuously regarding the danger and inexpediency of the measures proposed.

17. The general features of the said plan seem to be as follows:—To retain such number only of the Cuttoobaddies, etc., as may be required in the villages in which they are now

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located; to remove to other villages in the same taluks where there are few or none of them at present, such of the Cuttoobaddies, as are willing to be removed, resuming their present lands, and giving to them fresh grants of waste land in the villages to which they are removed; to resume the whole of the remaining inams on the death of the present incumbents; and to appoint, as such lapses occur, either the heirs of the said persons, if willing, or other parties with fresh grants to other villages and taluks, where their services might be required, so as to have an average number of village peons, for each village, according to its size. There was also to be a minimum standard of remuneration, to which the inams less than the standard, were to be raised and those now in excess of it, even if retained, were to be reduced on the death of the present incumbents.

18. In this way, the inams of 1396 Cuttoobaddies rated in the survey assessment at Rs. 27,767-0-7, and of 8 Kavilgars rated at Rs. 1,347-4-8, were to be resumed on the death of the present possessors; 239 Cuttoobaddies were to be removed to other villages with their own consent, and by curtailing the inams of 1,695 Cuttoobaddies, bearing a survey assessment of Rs. 74,895-12-10, to the proposed standard, resumptions to the amount of Rs. 23,623-12-5 would also be carried to the account of Government, while on the other hand the new grants of waste land required for peons removed or newly appointed to villages where their services were considered requisite, and for raising inams when necessary to the proposed standard, would cause, notwithstanding all these resumptions a net expense to Government of Rs. 4139. I doubt however whether the consent of 239 Cuttoobaddies to be removed from their villages, although reported by the Tahsildars, can be considered as genuine, or other than extorted by the threat of total resumption.

19. The professed object of these measures was, and the practical effect, obviously would be, to scatter the Cuttoobaddy peons, and destroy them as a body to diminish their numbers, and reduce those retained to the condition of talayaries or village peons, and the said measures would therefore be of a very harsh nature, independently of other objections to them, which seem to me unsurmountable, although apparently hitherto totally overlooked, and which will be presently adverted to. The Cuttoobaddies are generally of two classes—(1) relations of the Poligars and their chief retainers who received large grants for their support; and (2) the lower class of retainers who held only very small inams, frequently burdened with a heavy quit rent, which inams they received as a sort of retaining fee to secure their services when required, and they looked more to the batta given them, and opportunities of plunder when on service, than to their inams for their subsistence. The former class are comparatively wealthy and substantial people often holding patta lands in addition to their inams, and serving, when called out, by means of substitutes; and the proposed measures would be particularly harsh towards them. The latter, notwithstanding the smallness of their inams, have been willing to serve, because they have not hitherto been required to give more than a few weeks service during the year, and because, if called out to furnish a guard in a pass, or for any other duty beyond their usual tour in supplying a guard in turns for a few weeks for the Taluk Cutcherry, or assisting to escort prisoners to the Criminal Court, they were entitled to 2 annas per diem as batta. The Cuttoobaddies are only located in particular villages in certain taluks, and generally in large numbers together, and in those villages a few of them by turns are expected to sleep as a guard at night in the village choultry; but that is not very strictly attended to and under the circumstances stated that duty is trifling and almost nominal; and they have not been expected to perform any other duties than those above stated, which are obviously more of a military nature in assisting the police than duties of the police.

20. It appears to me very questionable whether the proposed measures, if carried out, would have the desired effect of improving the police and checking gang robberies. The talayaries or village peons under whatever designation are generally subservient to their immediate superiors, the Missal reddies and curnams; and the latter owing to the subdivision of the service lands among co-sharers, being too often needy in their circumstances, and sometimes still further impoverished by the infliction of the heavy fines, are led, in many instances, to resort to the harbouring of gang robbers and other illicit means of remunerating themselves. When such is the case, to increase the number of talayaries would be only to place so many more tools at their disposal, and when the state of affairs is different, a small number of village peons only is necessary for the performance of the duties really requisite from village police.

21. I believe that, excluding the cuttoobadies altogether, the ancient village police will be found to have survived all changes and to be as effective here as in other districts; that there are generally speaking a sufficient number of village police under the different local designations of talaries, Mohtadies, village peons, Malavandloo or Pariahs, etc.; and that they are adequately remunerated. In support of this opinion, I beg to submit the statement A showing the number of Talaries etc., as distinguished from cuttoobadies, and kavilgars in each village, in the Koilkuntla taluk; from which, it will be seen that in 100 villages, there are 526 village police servants giving an average of rather more than 5 to each village; that the numbers vary from 1 to 38 being in most cases according to the size of the village, and that the average emoluments of each, amount to nearly Rs. 36, there being only one small village in which there is no peon. In reference to the amount of emoluments, it must not be overlooked that a village peon resides among his family and relations, that only a portion of his time is taken up with his official duties, and that he generally either cultivates patta land, or has some trade or occupation according to his caste, by which he in part supports himself.

22. I believe that in other taluks the result will be found not far different, and if, in some few villages in certain taluks, one or more additional talaries be absolutely requisite, such deficiencies might be supplied by grants of waste land at a small cost, without interfering with vested hereditary rights, or having recourse to the sweeping changes which have been described, and which must necessarily have produced the greatest discontent.

23. In the correspondence regarding the Cuttoobady peons, frequent assertions have been made somewhat at random, as I imagine, stigmatising them in a body as harbourers of thieves, (which could in reality only be done by the heads of villages); and as taking part in the perpetration of gang robberies. Amongst them, as among other numerous classes of the people, bad characters are doubtless to be found; and some of the lowest of them have been implicated in robberies; but in such cases it seems to me that the proper course would have been to resume at once the inams of all those who were convicted of any heinous offence which would check the practice and not to punish for the offences of such persons, the more respectable members of the body, who have not been guilty of any delinquencies. The fallaciousness of such general assertions may be gathered from the fact that gang robberies have been most prevalent in the taluks, where, there are few or no Cuttoobadies. In the Chitvel Taluk, where the Cuttoobadies are most numerous and amount to no less than 1,123 persons, gang robberies have, for many years, been almost unknown, whereas, in the Pulivendla Taluk, where gang robberies have always been most frequent, there are only 10 Cuttoobadies.

24. The prevalence of gang robberies in the Pulivendla taluk must, I think, in a great measure be attributed to the impossibility of any efficient superintendence of its police by the head of the police, owing to its vast size, which is far too great for any one person to supervise, however active and zealous he may be. This taluk, which formerly composed two, (designated the Kadiri and Pulivendla taluks,) extends from north to south about 70 miles by about 40 miles from east to west, and comprehends 231 villages. It bounds through nearly its whole length with the Bellary district, being thus much exposed to the incursions of robbers from that district; and is intersected about its centre by a chain of mountains, by a long and difficult pass, through which is the only communication between the northern and southern portions of the Taluk.

25. A very well considered and desirable arrangement was suggested by Mr. Arbuthnot, when acting Principal Collector in 1843, by which the small and open taluk of Kamalapur being absorbed into the adjoining taluks, the division of Pulivendla into two taluks (as was originally the case) might be effected without any additional expense to Government. The Board of Revenue at the time found some objections to the measure, having reference, I believe, to the preparation of the accounts and comparative statements of revenue; but I imagine that any inconvenience caused in that way would not be very great, and the measure would I think have the best effects on the Police of that part of the district.

26. Although a remodelling of the village police has been proposed, I do not find that any reform of the taluk police has been stated to be necessary, although the taluk peons have in reality been as much implicated as the Cuttoobadies in gang robberies, and several of them

are now working on the roads here. Heads of Police are too apt to favour, and screen their own peons, and not listen readily to accusations against them; and when endeavouring to account for the state of the Police in their taluks, to lay the blame anywhere else; but the fact is that cases frequently occur, where although the circumstances may not be so glaring as to force enquiry, yet much suspicion attaches to police peons of being accessory to robberies either before or after the fact. The taluk peons are of two classes. Police and attavany or Revenue peons, the former receiving Rs. 4 and the latter Rs. 3-5-0 per mensem; but both classes perform revenue and police duties indiscriminately, as occasion requires. These peons are obliged to give constant service; and their duty necessarily causes them to be generally absent from their homes. The pay they receive is less than what is generally given to the same class of servants elsewhere; and is not sufficient to support them and their families; and in consequence they all, I believe, without exception, look more or less to eking out by perquisites and other illicit means, the pittance they receive. It is well when they do not resort to worse courses than merely allowing a little delay in the strict enforcement of the orders given them on obtaining free quarters in a village for a few days.

27. My own experience in this district extending over a period of about 11 years, during which I have officiated in almost every situation, Revenue and Judicial, leads me to the conclusion that the best means of improving the police of this district, and diminishing the number of robberies would be, (1) to improve the condition of the Missal reddies and Kur-nams, through whose joint connivance only the harbouring of thieves and robbers can take place within the limits of a village, by giving them a greater share of the emoluments properly belonging to their offices, than they now, owing to the sub-division of service inams, generally have. This may be done, I think by the Collector without much difficulty, if the measures adopted are judicious and gradual according to circumstances, and opportunities presented; but the state of affairs in different villages is so various as mentioned by Mr. Blane in his report previously alluded to, that I do not think it would be possible to lay down any general rule which would be satisfactory in its working, as regards the amount of emoluments to be enjoyed in each village by the mirasidars in office, and out of office respectively; (2) the dividing of the Pulivendla taluk into two as suggested by Mr. Arbuthnot; and (3) the improving of the condition of the Taluk peons by revising the establishment and appointing a sufficient number of peons on better pay than they now have. I think they probably ought to have an increase of about Re. 1 per mensem to put them on an equality with those of most other districts.

28. Much however must always depend on the sagacity and ability of heads of police and upon the efficiency and judiciousness of the Magistrates' measures, in supervising and controlling those officers, and with all that it must yet be expected that the perpetration of gang robberies, although it may be checked, will still take place to some extent, particularly in years of scarcity, while the District continues in its present unimproved state. It is in most parts very hilly and jungly, and is divided by two chains of mountains intersecting it diagonally from northwest to southeast into 3 parts which only communicate with one another by long and difficult passes, not passable by heavily laden carts, as is also the case with a great part of the road to the Presidency. If the said road was improved, and the passes alluded to opened, communication between different parts of the district would be increased, the carriage of produce to the best markets would be facilitated and a stimulus given to trade and manufactures which would open many sources of employment to the lower classes and place them in a condition less exposed to the temptation of joining in gang robberies, while increased communication between different parts would also tend to render the harbouring of robbers more difficult.

29. Having thus briefly adverted to the points to which in my humble opinion attention should be directed in order to effect any real improvement in the police of this district, I have now to observe that whatever advantages might have been expected from the proposed plan for remodelling the village police, it seems to have been totally overlooked that insurmountable

able obstacles existed to the carrying out of such plan in the fact, that the Cuttobaddy peons, (who have never formed part of the village police at all, but are only a sort of (Militia) called out occasionally to assist the police) received a special guarantee from Sir Thoms Munro on the part of the Government that their Inams should be continued to them hereditarily during good behaviour on condition of their yielding to the British Government the same services only which they had formerly given to the Poligars, and that therefore any interference with their inams, except by resumptions on account of the proved misconduct of individuals, would implicate the Government in a direct breach of faith towards them. The resumption of Kavilgar inams can, I fear, only be viewed in the same light. The Kavilgars of the Ceded districts are described by Sir Thoms Munro as being descendants of a sort of petty Poligars to whom from political motives, certain hereditary lands and allowances were continued; and he states that they are to be viewed as persons pensioned in order to keep them quiet, that no useful service could be expected from them, and no service therefore should be required from them, but that their lands and allowances should be resumed on failure of heirs; and although he held the Cuttobaddies liable for occasional service when required, he did not expect that such service would be of much use and intended that their inams should also be resumed on failure of heirs. In regard to the Kavilgar tenures of the Ceded districts and the nature of the duties hitherto performed by the cuttobaddy peons, and for which alone they are liable, I beg leave to refer the Government to Sir Thomas Munro's report of the 10th April 1806, addressed to the Secretary of the Police Committee, a valuable document, and which gives an accurate account of the Police as it then was, and now exists in this part of the country, and I would refer particularly to paras 13 and 15 of that report.

Report from
Colonel Munro
to the Sec-
retary of the
Police Com-
mittee, dated
10th April
1806.

30. When this district was ceded to the British Government, the town of Cuddapah and the Taluks immediately adjoining it only were under the direct management of the ruling power; and the remainder of the district was almost entirely in possession of Poligars, who kept up much larger bodies of armed peons than they were bound to do by their tenures, and withheld their *peekkush* altogether, if not compelled annually to pay by the presence of a large force; and such was the state of anarchy that little revenue would seem to have been derived from the district by the Nizam's Government during the ten years they held it. The measures it was found necessary to adopt to put a stop to this state of anarchy, were to resume all the *pallams* and grant hereditary pensions partly in money, and partly in land to the poligars and kavilgars, and to continue to the hereditary portion of the poligars' peons (who are the Cuttobaddy peons) their inams on the same terms as they previously held them; and Sir Thomas Munro states that notwithstanding the favourable nature of the terms granted, he had much difficulty in persuading many of the peons to come in and accept them.

31. Those measures were in the highest degree successful in accomplishing the desired object, for, although gang robberies have since been always more or less numerous, they have not been at all so prevalent as they are described to have been previously, and by day, the roads which were formerly nowhere safe, except for considerable bodies of armed men, have since continued to be almost universally safe, and free from molestation to travellers, while, until the occurrence of the past year, open insurrection against Government, which was only the common and constant custom of the poligars has been a thing never heard or thought of. For some account of the Poligars and the state of this part of the country at the time when it was ceded, I would beg to refer Colonel Munro's letter of the 20th March 1802, to the President and Members of the Board of Revenue, in which reference is also made to a previous letter of the same subject of the 12th August 1801 not to be found now in the Cuddapah records.

Letter from
Colonel Munro
to the Pres-
ident and
Members of
the Board of
Revenue,
dated 20th
March 1802.

32. In regard to the hereditary nature of the Cuttobaddy Inams, and the conditions on which they were guaranteed, I might quote numerous documents, but it will, I imagine, be sufficient to refer to the two letters as per * margin and particularly to the latter one being from the Secretary to Government, to the President and Members of the Board of Revenue, under date the 18th September 1821, which, being brief, and of so clear and decisive a nature, has been transcribed in the margin.*

Letter from Colonel Munro to the Chief Secretary to Government under date 30th September 1801. From the Secretary to Government, to the President and Members of the Board of Revenue, 18th September 1821.

From—the Secretary to Government,
To—the President and Members of the Board of Revenue,
Dated—18th September 1821.

"Gentlemen"

"The Honourable the Governor in Council thinks it proper to point out to your notice that "the Cutbady Inams in the Ceded Districts have always been hereditary, and that the suc- "cession to them ought to be regulated by the usage of the country. On a former occasion, "you have been apprized of the importance attached by Government to the maintenance of "all hereditary privileges. You will make such communication as you may judge proper to "the Collectors of Cuddapah and Bellary, desiring them not to disturb the Cutbady peons "in the possession of their Inams."

(Signed) D. HILL,
Secretary to Government.

This letter was elicited by a proposal of the Board of Revenue at that time to assess Cuttobaddy Inams upon the death of the existing incumbents with a quit-rent equal to one-third of the survey assessment, and it states distinctly the hereditary nature of the Cuttobaddy Inams, and the importance which the Government at that time (of which Sir Thomas Munro was the head) attached to the maintenance of all hereditary privileges.

33. I now proceed to show in what manner the measures described are connected with the insurrection which took place. In December 1845, the Acting Collector Mr. Cochrane's report was sent in with the statements regarding the Village Police called for by the Board of Revenue; and early in the year 1846, the Acting Collector having reported the deaths of certain Cuttobaddies, entered as not required for service in the statements sent by him and having requested instructions, he was directed in the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue of the 28th May 1846, to resume the inams referred to, and all similar lapses and levy the full assessment on them keeping the same in deposit, and allowing the heirs of the late incumbents to retain possession if they chose to pay the assessment, pending the final settlement of the question of the reform of the Cuddapah Police, and accordingly in due course in the month of June, the resumption of the lands of 23 individuals deceased, as per statement B, took place; all of whom (with exception of Nos. 3 and 4, who left no heirs and whose lands were therefore proper objects of resumption) left sons, brothers, or nephews, male heirs, entitled to succeed to their land. No. 1 in the statement B, is an extensive Kavilgar Inam, bearing a survey assessment of *Canteroy* Pagodas 454-4-9, which, on the authority of Sir Thomas Munro, is a hereditary allowance, for which no service is required. Yet, this has been resumed, notwithstanding that the late incumbent has left a son, entitled to succeed to it. It will be observed that with exception of Nos. 18 to 21, the whole of the lapses and resumptions, took place either in the Koilkuntla taluk, or in the adjoining taluks, and on the immediate borders of it; and it is also worthy of remark that the Cuttobaddies of Goondladurty, Nossam, and the other villages of the Koilkuntla taluk, in which such resumptions took place, were the foremost in taking arms.

34. In the course of the month of June, the Tahsildar began to hear rumours that some conspiracy was going on, and some disturbance meditated; and in the beginning of July, those rumours were confirmed by its being ascertained that Narasimha Reddi was going about visiting the principal villages, where the cuttobaddies are located, in rotation, attended by about 80 armed men; that on these occasions he was received in the villages with unusual honours, the whole of the cuttobaddies of each village going out to meet him and escort him into it. Narasimha Reddi at this time sent by a messenger a written request for the amount of his pension for the month of May; which had reached the Cutcherry and although such requests had previously been occasionally complied with, the Tahsildar properly, as I think on this occasion, sent word that as no reason was assigned for his not coming in person for it as usual, and as he wished particularly to see him it could not be sent. As he did not come however, and as he was known to be with a body of armed followers at the village of Akumulla, the Tahsildar deputed a party of peons with a warrant on the 3rd July, with instructions to bring Narasimha Reddy, if possible, by fair means to the Cutcherry to speak with him; but, if he refused to come, to show the warrant and apprehend him if possible. His party

however was too strong to allow of his being apprehended on his refusal to come, and he even came to Koilkuntla and halted there during the next day on his way from Akumalla, in the western part of the taluk to Rudravaram in the eastern part, still refusing to go to the Tahsildar and give an account of his proceedings, thus daring the Tahsildar to seize him if he could. As he went off at night, the Tahsildar sent the Taluk *surcheshum* or head peon with as many peons as he could muster and with 100 cuttobaddies, whom he summoned from different villages, in pursuit of Narasimha Reddi in the direction of Rudravaram; but after following on his traces unsuccessfully for a few days, the peons were suddenly attacked by Narasimha Reddi, with several hundred armed men, mostly cuttobaddies, while halting at Mittupully, and were disarmed and made prisoners while the whole of the cuttobaddies with them, deserted them and joined Narasimha Reddi, immediately on his appearance; and when the attack on the Taluk Cutcherry was made on the 10th July, the cuttobaddies, whom the Tahsildar had summoned for its defence, all behaved in the same manner. It was also subsequently ascertained very clearly from the enrolment lists of the Reddi's followers, found at Kottakota, and the lists furnished to the Magistrate, of persons absent from their villages, that the whole of the cuttobaddies in that part of the country, were implicated in the rebellion, and that the great majority had actually taken up arms and joined Narasimha Reddi. Government having already received full particulars of the subsequent course of the rebellion and the manner in which it was quelled, it is unnecessary here to enter into any details on that subject.

35. It is obvious that the insurrection was in the first instance solely that of the cuttobaddies and their friends until, by the plundering of the Cutcherry, the seizure of the Tahsildar and driving away of all the other public servants, a temporary state of anarchy was produced when all the lowest classes in the surrounding country to the number of many thousands flocked to the standard of Narasimha Reddi, not from any regard for him, or from motives of disaffection to Government, but merely in the hopes of plundering and pilfering with impunity; and they all dispersed as rapidly as they had collected on the first collision with the troops. It is also I think equally obvious and is indeed notorious, that the resumption of Inams under the order of the Board of Revenue of the 28th May 1846 was the immediate cause of the rising in rebellion by the cuttobaddy peons, being as it were the spark which set fire to a train previously laid, the people having been previously aware that such measures were threatened, and would probably take place. Many of the cuttobaddies admitted indirectly in their depositions that all that class were engaged in a common cause; and Narasimha Reddi also admitted in his depositions before the Acting Magistrate that when he hesitated to take the first fatal step of attacking the cutcherry, they insisted on his remaining with them and going on, while the Tahsildar in the report furnished by him by desire of the Magistrate after his release, stated that the constant subject of conversation amongst the persons on guard over him was that, "if successful, they would not only retain their present inams, which the circar were bent on taking from them, but would obtain increased grants from Narasimha Reddi."

36. I also know that the same feeling of discontent and disposition for insurrection prevails universally through the district amongst the cuttobaddies, and has even been expressed very openly by some of them, who, when sent for by a Tahsildar to serve in their turn on guard at the cutcherry, have refused to come saying "if our lands are to be taken from our children, we will not serve you any longer, and you may as well take them at once."

37. Many of the principal cuttobaddies in the Koilkuntla taluk are related to the Poligar Narasimha Reddi, while he and they, being of the Kapu or cultivating class of *seodras*, are related also to many of the heads of the villages and principal ryots, and over the whole of them, he has of course some hereditary influence owing to their having received their lands from his ancestors; and in order to ascertain whether there could be anything in the conduct of the late Tahsildar Raghavaoharlu (a stranger brought to the district by the late Principal Collector) towards either him or them to account in any manner for their conduct, I had depositions on solemn affirmation taken on that subject from all the public servants of old standing attached to the Koilkuntla Taluk cutcherry; but neither on that investigation from my own proceedings held on the trials, nor from the proceedings received from the Magistrate, did anything material of the sort appear although from the Tahsildar, being a stranger put

over the heads of servants of older standing in the district, and from his being, as I have had reason to think, rather over-bearing and coarse in his manner to his subordinates, he was far from popular, and anything that could be said against him would have been told readily. It only was found that the said Tahsildar had a little annoyed some of the principal cuttobaddies by objecting to their serving for the short time they were liable to be called out each year by substitutes as they had been in the habit of doing, and pressing them to attend in person, and that he sometimes required such as did attend in consequence of his requisitions to that effect to perform services somewhat of a menial nature at his own house. This conduct of the Tahsildar exposes him to the suspicion of having wished to extort from these parties the payment of some consideration to him for allowing them to continue the practice of serving by substitutes, particularly as he adopted the course of innovating on previous practice, without referring to the Magistrate on the subject; but any such grievance was of a trifling nature and under other circumstances would only have formed the subject of a complaint to the Magistrate. The very fact of the insurrection having taken place without any previous complaint, or remonstrance regarding their grievances by any of the insurgents, makes it, I think, pretty clear, were it not otherwise sufficiently obvious and indeed notorious that such grievances must have had reference to a matter in which both the Tahsildar and Collector were known to be acting under superior authority, and that any complaint regarding the acts of these officers in such matter, it was supposed, would not be listened to by that authority. On the other hand, it is evident that there was not any strong personal feeling against the Tahsildar, for, when he was seized by the rebels, the first impulse of Narasimha Reddy was to let him go; and although, at the instigation of some of his followers, he resolved on detaining the Tahsildar, lest, if left at liberty, he should in any way be able to counteract the plans of the insurgents, yet, the Tahsildar's own palanquin was provided for him and his comfort attended to in every way during the time he was detained and forced to accompany the rebels.

38. The insurgent leader Majjare Narasimha Reddi is the third and youngest son of Mulla Keddy, late Poligar of Ooyalayada in the Koilkuntla taluk, which pollam, in common with all the other pollams, was resumed shortly after the cession of this district to the British Government; and in lieu thereof an allowance of rupees 70 per mensem was allotted for the maintenance of the family. Half of the said sum fell to the share of Mullareddi's elder brother and is still enjoyed by his widow Dedamma and the other half being divided among the three sons of Mullareddi, afforded only rupees 11 and odd to each, which sum Narasimha Reddy being of an ambitious and expensive turn with an increasing family, found quite insufficient for his wants, even with the contributions which he appears to have been in the habit of receiving from the hereditary retainers of both his father's and mother's families. He is, through his mother, the grandson of Jayaram Reddy, Poligar of the extensive pollam of Nossam, also in the Koilkuntla taluk, for the support of which family, on the resumption of the pollam, an allowance of about Rs. 1,000, per mensem, was granted; and in consequence he has always been held by the people of higher rank and consideration than his elder half-brothers. The allowance for the Nossam family lapsed to Government on the death of the late poligar without male issue, and the refusal to continue to Narasimha Reddy any portion of the allowances of that family, and the consequent poverty and indigence of his mature years, compared with the state and affluence of his childhood, have no doubt rankled in his mind. He has therefore always been (as admitted by himself) a disappointed and discontented man, anxious to obtain military service, or to find any other means of bettering his condition. He was for some time in the service of Shah Alam Khan, a wealthy Patan from Hyderabad, who held part of the Banaganapalli Jaghir, in mortgage; but the settlement of the affairs of that taluk, has of late years, deprived him even of that resource. He appears to have frequently visited Kurnool and parts of the Hyderabad country, where the Vanaparthi Zamindar, being of the same caste, is said to have been his friend and to have occasionally afforded him a little pecuniary assistance. It is probable that in the Hyderabad country, he may have both heard of and seen insurrections when protracted for some time ending in a compromise, and flattered himself that he might attain some such result, and procure an increased allowance for his support. That such was really the case, may be gathered from his declarations, before the Magistrate, in which complaining much of the insufficiency of his means, he admitted that he was aware

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of the power of the Company's Government, and never expected that he could be so far successful as to regain the position of his ancestors. He also stated that he had been actively concerting the insurrection for six months before it took place, having first thought of it about a year before; and that, at the last moment when his followers were assembled, and had made prisoners of the peons sent to apprehend him, he hesitated whether to go on with the rebellion or to proceed to Cuddapah and make a representation to the Collector regarding his circumstances and motives; but was persuaded by the outtoobadies to adopt the former course. In other parts of his declarations denying that he intended any actual rebellion, and alleging that when he went to Koilkuntla and attacked the catcherry with 5 or 600 men, his object was only to speak to the Tahsildar, and the conflict accidental. He attributed the outbreak entirely to the issuing of a warrant for his apprehension; all which, however, is quite incompatible with his other admissions, and with the fact clearly established, and not denied by him that no warrant was issued until he had refused to come peaceably and give an account of his proceedings; nor until he had been going about for several days with so large a body of men that his apprehension by the Tahsildar's peons was not possible, and when the only effect of the warrant could be to bring matters to a crisis, probably sooner than he intended, or wished, as it appeared that he was in hopes of being able to persuade several other Poligars, and discontented persons in this part of the country and elsewhere to join him.

39. It would appear therefore that his relations and friends, the principal outtoobadies, being alarmed at the threatened loss or curtailment of their inams and having consulted and complained to Narasimha Reddi the idea of bettering himself and them by an insurrection ending in a compromise, such as he may have witnessed or heard of elsewhere, suggested itself to his mind, that the resumption of certain inams, as already mentioned, merely brought to a crisis a conspiracy, which had been going on for many months previously, and that Narasimha Reddi was solely actuated in his revolt by discontent with his condition in life, and perhaps in some degree by the feeling, that the impending curtailment of the means of his relations and friends would diminish their ability to contribute as formerly to his support and tend to reduce his circumstances still lower.

40. The people of this district have always felt confident, that the settlement of the landed tenures made nearly half a century ago, was to be permanent, and would not be altered or infringed in any way to their disadvantage; and it was therefore to be expected, that the serious changes now attempted would produce discontent regarding the present and alarm for the future. The disaffection is, however, I am satisfied merely of a temporary nature, arising from the causes mentioned, and I am confident that it only requires the prohibition of such innovations to render the people of this district happy, and contented, and yielding to those of no other district in loyalty, and affection to the Government, as was till of late the case.

41. I have thus endeavoured to the best of my ability to supply the information called for by Government; and should further explanation or illustration of any point be required, I trust to be able to afford it. In conclusion, I beg to state, that it has been, with feelings of much reluctance and diffidence, that I have presumed to impugn in any way the opinions and acts of the Board of Revenue, consisting of gentlemen, my seniors in the service, and of far greater general experience than myself; but at the same time in submitting the report called for by Government, I felt that it was my duty to state my opinions and the conclusions I had come to, plainly and without reserve, leaving it to Government to attach such weight to them only as they might appear to deserve, and should I have in any way expressed myself too freely, which I hope I have not done, I trust that it will be attributed solely to the interest I take in the welfare of the people of this district, among whom I have lived so long, and my anxiety to make fully known to Government the causes, which, in my opinion, could alone have led to the insurrection which unfortunately took place.

I have &c.,

SPECIAL COMMISSIONER'S COURT AT CUDDAPAH, }
19th January 1847.

(Signed)

W. A. D. INGLIS,
Special Commissioner.

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