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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 633 Press Mis.

126-127

Dated 14-5- 1873.

7/8

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 126. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 30th April 1873, No. 679:—

Read the following letters:—

From A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 9th December 1872, No. 198.

THERE are certain large weekly markets or fairs held in this district where appliances for the comfort of man and beast are very much wanted and evidently called for by the people.

One copy of letter, No. 524, of 3rd Dec. 1872.

2. I annex copy of a letter from my Head Assistant on the subject.

3. At several places already for some years improvements have been made, and are paid for by the collection of a fee of one Anna per cart and proportionally on other means of conveyance.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Each laden cart ...	0	1	0
Bullock	0	0	6
Ass	0	0	3

4. By this contribution, wells are dug and troughs cut and filled for the supply of men and cattle; trees are planted to give shade; tiled sheds are built to afford shelter in wet weather.

5. Under the recent ruling of the Government of India, as the collection of market fees would be of the nature of an impost or tax, the arrangements proposed cannot be carried into effect without special sanction, which is therefore requested.

G. O., No. 1263, of 30th August 1872, Revenue Department.

6. I may here mention that the Local Funds are quite unable to apportion an allotment for public markets, and it is quite in accordance with custom to pay a fee for special accommodation or comfort provided in a market place.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From R. RICE, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, to A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, dated 3rd December 1872, No. 524.

IN many of the villages in my division (most notably at Tudiyaloor, Cheyur, and Kanattukadavu) where the largest weekly markets are held, the market places are very irregular, ill-defined, and their conservancy is altogether unattended to. In the villages mentioned above, the market is held partly on the road and partly on a portion of the adjoining Oormunday, and on the fair days great inconvenience is experienced (as I have found myself) by travellers passing along the roads.

2. Besides, there is no shelter and no convenience for man or beast—I mean in the way of convenient wells, drinking troughs, etc.; and it can easily be imagined that in the hot season especially both endure great inconvenience and suffering for want of these.

3. I beg, therefore, to submit for your consideration, and, if you approve, for the sanction of the Board, the expediency of instituting market-fees in these places as at Pollachy, Avenashy, and Palladum, where the levy of these fees has already been sanctioned and introduced, and where the benefit accruing from their expenditure on the improvement of the market places is most highly appreciated by the people frequenting them; in fact, so much so, that, on going among the people myself and inquiring whether the collection of the fees was distasteful to them, or whether they would wish it to be stopped, they unanimously exclaimed that, so far from its being distasteful or considered a hardship, they were much pleased and grateful for its introduction; and they added that, if the fees were stopped and the improvements put an end to, all the advantage previously gained would be lost, and they would suffer greater inconveniences than before.

4. In fact, the people in the villages above mentioned have requested that the collection of these fees might be introduced at their markets also, and that their market places might be improved as at the places where the fees are already collected ; and, from my own observation of the working of the tax (if so it can be called), and the immense convenience to the people accruing from the improvement and proper conservancy of the market places, I would strongly recommend that the institution of market fees (on the scale sanctioned for Pollachy, etc.,) be sanctioned for the three markets mentioned at the commencement of my letter; and I request you will be good enough to favour me with your opinion on the subject as early as convenient.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) A. WEDDERBURN,
Collector.

From A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 21st March 1873, No. 36.

With reference to your official memorandum, No. 2, of 6th January 1873, I have the honour to inform you that the market fees alluded to were introduced first at Pollachy under the orders of the Board of Revenue, No. 581, of 24th January 1868, approved of by Government in G. O., No. 377, of 11th February 1868. Subsequently, when an application was made for introduction of the fees similarly at Mettapolliem, the Revenue Board observed that the octroi proposed to be levied was unobjectionable, accordingly the fee-system was introduced at Mettapolliem, and subsequently at Avenashy and Palladum.

One copy of letter from the Head Assistant Collector, No. 96, of 12th March 1873.

2. The mode of collection is detailed in the accompanying letter from my Acting Head Assistant. It appears that at three* out of the four places where the fees are levied the collection is made by sale of tickets, initialled or stamped by the Tahsildar, and at Mettapolliem the collection has been let on contract. As the people understand that for every payment made they are to get a ticket, and as the Gumastahs are to return the tickets remaining unsold to the Tahsildar or Deputy-Tahsildar, there is a sufficient check against misappropriation.

* Pollachy, Palladum, and Avenashy.

3. When the money is paid into the treasury, it is credited to Local Funds, and nothing is spent out of it without the sanction of the Local Board to whom the market places have been formally transferred.

4. A report on the subject of these market-fees is also contained in paragraph 5 of my letter to the Revenue Board, No. 12, of 30th January 1873.

Enclosure No. 1.

From R. RICE, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, to A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, dated Avenashy, 12th March 1873, No. 96.

In reply to your endorsement, No. 20, dated 14th January 1873, on Board's memorandum dated 6th January, I have the honour to report as follows:—

2. The mode of collecting the market-fees at Pollachy, Avenashy, and Palladum, is by ticket, *i.e.*, on the market day at these places the Gumastah, charged with the collection, is provided with a certain number of tickets calculated on the average amount of collections, for, say,

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
14th May 1873.

a-month or two months, which have been made under the immediate supervision of the Tahsildar for Deputy-Tahsildar, on each of which is written the amount of the fee payable according as it is for a bandy, bullock, or head-load. These are initialled or stamped by the Tahsildar (or in his absence the Sheristadar) or the Deputy-Tahsildar, and handed to the Market Gumastah (at Pollachy and Palladum special Gumastahs are appointed for the collection of the fees ; at Avenashy, this is undertaken by one of the Deputy-Tahsildar's Gumastahs ; and at Mettapolliem, the collection has this year been let out on contract) who, on the evening of or day following the market day, produces the collection, with the tickets remaining unused, before the taluq authority, who is thus enabled to closely supervise and check the action of the Gumastah. Frequently, the Tahsildar or Deputy-Tahsildar personally visits the market, and makes it known that no one is to pay any fee without getting a ticket, and from my own observation and inquiry amongst the people (which, from my knowledge of the language, I am able to make without the intervention of Tahsildars or interpreters), I am led to believe that all those frequenting the different markets perfectly understand this as well as the object for which the fee is collected; and, seeing as they are now able to do that the money thus collected is really spent on the improvement of the market places, and the provision of "means and appliances" which tend to promote their own comfort as well as that of their cattle, etc., in the planting of trees, sinking and deepening of wells, provision of drinking troughs for cattle, erection of sheds for protection against sun and rain, they have, on many occasions, expressed to me their appreciation of the great improvements to the market places and the immense comfort and benefit they derive from them; and to my inquiries as to whether they thought the payment of the tax a hardship, they have invariably declared that, so far from considering it a hardship, they considered it a great benefit, and they strongly deprecated any idea of its abolition; and, in fact, so little is it thought oppressive, and so highly are the improvements which have been carried out in the markets above referred to (except in Mettapolliem where the market being held in the middle of the town, and it would be difficult to plant trees, etc., as in the other market places) appreciated, that whenever I have visited any other markets of importance within my division, I have been invariably importuned by the people and the villagers to introduce the system in their markets also; but I have hitherto refrained from recommending the adoption of this course, until I could have ample opportunity of observing how the plan worked in those markets on which it had already been introduced. This I have now been able to do for the last three years, and so satisfied am I of its efficient working and of its beneficial effects in every point of view, that I am inclined to advocate its introduction in the case of every market of any importance throughout the district; and, at any rate, I would beg to be allowed to introduce it in those markets which are held at or near the head-quarters of the Revenue Inspectors (in addition to those which it is already introduced).

3. You are aware that at Pollachy half the space where the market is held belongs to the Ramaputnum Poligar, and so impressed has he been with the improvements effected in the Government half, such as planting trees, erecting sheds, etc., that he, too, (he, of course, at the same time, collecting fees at the same rate as is sanctioned for the Government portion) has already erected a long and substantial line of sheds on one side of the market, and, during my recent visit to Pollachy, he expressed his intention of continuing these as fees accrued, and also of erecting latrines in convenient and suitable places, which, I must say, are very much needed; and I would recommend that a few of these be constructed conveniently to the Government portion, but about this I will address you shortly in a separate letter.

4. Not only am I satisfied that no misappropriation takes place, but I am convinced that the plan is fraught with the greatest advantage and benefit to the people, while the payment of the fee, which is very trifling, is cheerfully acquiesced in; and I would strongly advocate its introduction in those markets adverted to in my letter, dated 3rd December 1872, No. 524.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) A. WEDDERBURN,
Collector.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
14th May 1873.

THE Collector of Coimbatore requests that the levy of market-fees now allowed at Mettapalliem, Pollachy, Avenashy, and Palladum, may be allowed at Tudiyaloor, Cheyur, and Kanattakadavu.

2. The system was sanctioned so far as regards Pollachy in G. O., 11th February 1868, No. 377.

3. With reference to the Order of the Government of India, replied to in Board's Proceedings dated 5th May 1873, No. 314 (in which market-fees of this sort are reported to be in existence and to be unobjectionable), the Board resolve to submit the Collector's proposal for the favourable consideration of Government. It will be observed that the people who frequent the markets wish the fees to be levied.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Secretary.

No. 127. ORDER THEREON, 14th May 1873, No. 633.

The Governor in Council sees no objection to the maintenance of the system described, which is evidently solely for the benefit of the people, and well-appreciated by them.

(True Extract.)

Acting Under Secretary,
for *Chief Secretary.*

To the Board of Revenue.
Revenue Department.

Exd. J. Wright.

Govt. of {1873} Madras.

FINANCIAL.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated May, 14th.

Read.

G. O., 14th May 1873, No. 633.

MAY.
Nos. 126-127.

Authorizing the levy of fees at the market-places at Tudiyaloor, Cheyar, and Kanattukadavu in the Coimbatore District.

No. 679.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 30th April 1873.

Read the following letters :—

From A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 9th December 1872, No. 198.

THERE are certain large weekly markets or fairs held in this district where appliances for the comfort of man and beast are very much wanted and evidently called for by the people.

One copy of letter No. 524 of 3rd Dec. 1872.

2. I annex copy of a letter from my Head Assistant on the subject.

3. At several places already for some years improvements have been made, and are paid for by the collection of a fee of one Anna per cart and proportionally on other means of conveyance.

	RS.	A.	P.
Each laden cart ...	0	1	0
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4. By this contribution, wells are dug and troughs cut and filled for the supply of men and cattle; trees are planted to give shade; tiled sheds are built to afford shelter in wet weather.

5. Under the recent ruling of the Government of India, as the collection of market fees would be of the nature of an impost or tax, the arrangements proposed cannot be carried into effect without special sanction, which is therefore requested.

G. O. No. 1,263 of 30th August 1872, Revenue Department.

6. I may here mention that the Local Funds are quite unable to apportion an allowment for public markets, and it is quite in accordance with custom to pay for special accommodation or comfort provided in a market place.

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From R. RICE, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, to A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, dated 3rd December 1872, No. 524.

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2. Besides, there is no shelter and no convenience for man or beast,—I mean in the way of convenient wells, drinking troughs, etc.; and it can easily be imagined that in the hot season especially both endure great inconvenience and suffering for want of these.

3. I beg, therefore, to submit for your consideration, and, if you approve, for the sanction of the Board, the expediency of instituting market-fees in these places as at Pollachy, Avenashy, and Palladum, where the levy of these fees has already been sanctioned and introduced, and where the benefit accruing from their expenditure on the improvement of the market places is most highly appreciated by the people frequenting them; in fact, so much so, that on going among the people myself and inquiring whether the collection of the fees was distasteful to them, or whether they would wish it to be stopped, they unanimously exclaimed that so far from its being distasteful or considered a hardship, they were much pleased and grateful for its introduction; and they added

that if the fees were stopped and the improvements put an end to, all the advantage previously gained would be lost, and they would suffer greater inconveniences than before.

4. In fact, the people in the villages above mentioned have requested that the collection of these fees might be introduced at their markets also, and that their market places might be improved as at the places where the fees are already collected ; and, from my own observation of the working of the tax (if so it can be called), and the immense convenience to the people accruing from the improvement and proper conservancy of the market places, I would strongly recommend that the institution of market fees (on the scale sanctioned for Pollachy, etc.,) be sanctioned for the three markets mentioned at the commencement of my letter; and I request you will be good enough to favour me with your opinion on the subject as early as convenient.

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Collector.

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* Pollachy, Palladum, Avenashy.

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(True Copy.)

(Signed) A. WEDDERBURN,
Collector.

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(True Copies and Extract.)

To the Chief Secretary to Government, Financial Dept.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Copy to the Collector of Coimbatore.

F. No. 2106 973.

Financial Department

1873.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 30TH APRIL 1873, No. 679.

Dept 8 May 73.

Encl.

No 866

Received 12 May 73.

APRIL.

No. 679.

Market Fees.—Proposal of Collector of Coimbatore to levy fees at market place at Tudiyaloor, Cheyur, and Konattukaduvu, submitted to Government for favourable consideration.

Govt. of {1873} Madras.

Financial

To

The Board of Revenue.

Dated May 14

Recd. Read.

G O. 14 May , 1873 , No. 633

Nos 126/27.

Authorizing the levy fees at the Market places at Indyaloor, Cheyar & Konattukadavu in the Coimbatore Dt.