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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

JUDL DEPARTMENT

|          |           |       |
|----------|-----------|-------|
| G.O. No. | 1937      | Press |
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| Dated    | 11-9-1888 | 197   |

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CONFIDENTIAL.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COURT OF WARDS.

H. S. THOMAS, Esq., F.L.S., F.Z.S.

THE HON. W. S. WHITESIDE.

READ—the following letter from J. G. HORSFALL, Esq., Collector of Ganjam, to the Secretary to the Court of Wards, dated Chatrapur, 5th July 1888, No. 135 :—

In my letter, No. 4713, dated 13th October 1887, reporting the death of the Zemindar of the Kallikót and Atagadá estates, I stated that the Zemindar was reputed to have left a large stock of money and jewellery, but that these were not forthcoming and that a strict inquiry was being made regarding them.

2. Mr. Pinhey, my then Assistant, had been directed to proceed at once to Kallikót to take charge of the treasury and accounts, and, in consequence of his private reports, I deemed it advisable to proceed there myself with a large search party.

3. In the treasury-room of the fort, in three different cash chests, were found the following sums :—A, Rs. 18,000 ; B, Rs. 18,000 ; C, Rs. 3,000 ; total Rs. 39,000. These cash chests were found open, not locked. In other chests in the treasury-room were found valuable cloths and jewellery. I may here remark that the cash chests would each hold over a lakh of rupees, and that there was no apparent reason why the money found should have been deposited in the three different chests, nor why they were found open, with the padlocks and keys attached. Moreover, amongst the jewellery found, I missed some very valuable jewels which I was personally cognizant of, as I had taken particular notice of them on the occasion of a visit paid by the late Zemindar to the Commander-in-Chief at Rambha, a few years back. I further learnt that a remittance of Rs. 10,000 had been received from the Atagadá taluk a few days previously. A scrutiny, however, of the coins found in the treasury chests disclosed the curious fact that not one of the rupees found was of a later coinage than the year 1842, the presumption being that these bags had been stored in the chests for a considerable period, and that the treasury chests had been looted prior to the Sub-Magistrate's and Mr. Pinhey's arrival. The disappearance of the most valuable jewels corroborated this view.

4. The treasury-room communicates immediately on one side with the zenana and the Mahadevi's private apartments. I examined the Mahadevi and the Minor, a boy 16 years of age. Both of them professed entire ignorance, both of the money in the treasure-room and of the specific jewels noted by me. The guards of the zenana and treasure-room, who are one and the same, alike pleaded utter ignorance, and Jan Patnaik, the acting Dewan, who is said to have been the Zemindar's right-hand man, similarly professed utter ignorance of everything.

5. In these circumstances, I determined to search the zenana and palace buildings carefully, and, after giving due notice to the inmates to remove, proceeded to do so assisted by Mr. Pinhey, Mr. Meredith, the Ganjam Sub-Magistrate, two Inspectors of Police and a body of police. The search was continued the whole day, but without material results beyond the discovery of the fact that there is inside the zenana a vast quantity of miscellaneous jewellery said to belong to the different inmates thereof. Roughly I estimate the value at several lakhs of rupees. The search was continued the following day in the palace buildings outside and resulted in the discovery of a most miscellaneous collection of valuables, but neither the money nor the jewels that I was immediately in quest of. Some jewels were seized by the police under suspicious circumstances, and a quantity was also found thrown away in thick jungle on the hillside immediately beyond the palace. This latter had evidently been guarded, as the cumbries, spears and swords of the guard over it were found with it. To this and the other jewels seized claims are put forward, and I am awaiting the production of proofs before disposing of them. In one case the Comaty who was found in possession of some Rs. 2,000 worth of jewels belonging to the Mahadevi and concubines of the late Zemindar proved that the articles had been given to him by the Mahadevi after the death of the Zemindar in accordance with the prevailing Uriya custom for widowed females to send away the jewels actually worn by them, and the man was acquitted.

6. It was rumoured that there was an inner concealed treasure-room containing four lakhs of rupees; but this our search failed to disclose, and, though dissatisfied with the results of our search, I was compelled reluctantly to give up and to return to Chatrapur, warning Mr. Pinhey, however, and the Manager, who subsequently succeeded him, to make every effort to discover the missing treasure and jewels. Their attention was particularly called to the existence of a hidden treasure-room in which it was supposed a large sum of money was concealed.

7. At the same time I had the accounts seized and brought down to Chatrapur for careful scrutiny under the immediate superintendence of my Treasury Deputy Collector and Sheristadar, and for this purpose was compelled to employ a temporary establishment, partly of Government servants upon whom I could put some confidence and partly of new men. The accounts were most intricate and confused and not complete, and the scrutiny occupied a much longer period than I had anticipated. The result arrived at showed that there should have been in the treasury at the Zemindar's death over seven lakhs of rupees. I forward, herewith, the report of the Treasury Deputy Collector (A) on the examination, and request sanction for the payment of the cost of the establishment employed as per list B, and that the sanction of Government may be accorded for the temporary loan of those servants of Government who were thus employed and whose names I have marked thus \*

8. I had a list and valuation made of the jewels, &c., brought away to Chatrapur by a professional jeweller and submit his valuation (C) with a request that his fee for the same, Rs. 180, may be sanctioned. I do not forward the list as I think it not advisable that it should be disclosed in consequence of the numerous claims that are now being put forward demanding payment for jewels said to have been furnished to the late Zemindar.

9. The claims already preferred for loans and jewels, &c., amount to Rupees 86,232-15-6, as per list D enclosed, and most of these will have to be admitted and paid.

10. During my absence for four months on tour, in the early part of the year, I could pay but little attention to the affairs of the Kallikót estate, but I did not lose sight of the fact that there had been a serious misappropriation of the property of the estate and continued from time to time to receive private information, but not such as would warrant my personal interference again.

11. At last, on the 31st May, the Deputy Tahsildar of Purushottapur \* came to me here and told me that he had received credible information that the treasure

\* Gajavilli Narasingarao.

and jewels which had been abstracted immediately after the decease of the late Zemindar were buried in five different rooms in the zenana, which he particularised. The informant was positive as to the authenticity of the information and I accordingly determined to take instant action, and early on the morning of the 1st June appeared at Kallikót and once more commenced to search the rooms of which the description given was certainly accurate. The search was continued for six hours but fruitlessly, and there was no doubt that the information so far given us was totally false. The Deputy Tahsildar persisted that the treasure would be found in the old treasury-room, and, after a short adjournment, I accordingly proceeded to the old treasure-room, which, as I have already described, adjoins the zenana.

12. On entering this room I noticed first of all that all the treasure chests had been removed and that it had been converted into a store godown for ghee, jaggery, and the like. Some little time was occupied in removing these, and then it was apparent that the floor had been recently whitewashed and chunamed over. On sounding the floor with crowbars we found that a small portion was paved with stone, and on closer investigation these disclosed an underground vault. This was opened and found to contain treasure to the amount of a lakh and three hundred and fifty rupees in silver, fifteen thousand rupees in gold coin, and about five thousand rupees' worth of gold and silver ornaments. Further search during that and the following days gave no results, and I am satisfied that this is the supposed buried treasure of four lakhs of rupees which the late Zemindar is said to have amassed. The money, which is of coin of various ages, has not yet been completely shroffed, but the latest rupee discovered as yet was coined so recently as 1885, showing conclusively that this vault had been very recently used. The Zemindar died in October 1887.

13. There still remained the treasure that I am convinced was removed out of the treasury after the late Zemindar's death, the amount of which we shall never know, but, judging from the size of the chests, it could not have exceeded three lakhs of rupees, and the jewels of the Zemindar.

14. The Mahadevi sent word that she was too ill to see me, and the Minor wished to consult the Mahadevi; but finding I was determined to remain, the Minor finally sent word to me on Sunday, the 3rd June, that he had something to say to me. I proceeded to the palace in the evening and received from him a box containing jewels. On opening it, in his presence, I at once recognised some of the jewels I had seen the late Zemindar wear, the knowledge of the existence of which had been previously strenuously denied by both the Mahadevi and the Minor. I reproved the Minor for his duplicity and falsehood, but could obtain no information from him as to the treasure that had been taken away, and he continued to persist in his denial of all knowledge of everything. To every question he answered "I know nothing," and I saw it was useless pressing him for further information.

15. I selected nine of the most valuable ornaments, and gave him back the rest, ordering the guardian to make a careful inventory of them. I may mention that, of the ornaments brought away by me, two, a pair of diamond set armlets, cost Rs. 65,000. These are now deposited in the treasury here (list E).

16. I am afraid we must give up all hope of recovering the money looted from the treasury after the Zemindar's death with the undoubted connivance of the Mahadevi and the Minor. What the amount was, it is impossible to say. It may have been under one lakh, and cannot, judging from the capacity of the chests, have exceeded three lakhs. The keys were in the possession of the Mahadevi or the Minor, and nothing was easier than for them, with the connivance of the guards, to carry it inside the zenana in the interval between the Zemindar's death and the Sub-Magistrate's arrival 24 hours afterwards.

17. I have private information that Rs. 40,000 were expended for the purpose of obtaining the Court of Wards' sanction to the detention and education of the Minors at Kallikót instead of at Parlákimedi, and that a sum of Rs. 23,000 was

sent out immediately after the Zemindar's death for the performance of the funeral obsequies, but that this was not really spent. I have no reliable information, however, and it is not likely now that the Minor, who has been, I regret to say, a party to the fraud, if not the principal actor in it, will ever disclose the truth. It remains to be seen what effect removal to Parlákimedi and separation from his evil associations at Kallikót will have.

18. I consider the removal of the Minors imperative, and am further about to issue orders dismissing the treasury-room guard and prohibiting the entrance of Jan Patnaik, the confidential servant of the late Zemindar, into the palace. This man must have known what was in the treasury, and I cannot accept for a moment his barefaced denial of its existence. He is reputed to have instigated the whole plot and to have benefited considerably thereby.

19. Had Mr. Pinhey carried out my instructions, he must have discovered before he left Kallikót the existence of the underground vault; but he was busily occupied in making inventories of the property, and left on the arrival of the present Manager without completing the search, which the Manager at least should have done. The reason that the vault was not discovered on my first visit was that it was immediately under one of the treasure chests which concealed the opening. I cannot acquit the Manager of great neglect in allowing the chests to be removed by the Minor and the room to be converted into a store-room without even personally examining it. The plastering of the floor and whitewashing show that the existence of the vault was well known and that its opening had been effectually concealed.

20. In conclusion, I think it my duty to bring to the special notice of the Court of Wards the admirable conduct of the Deputy Tahsildar of Purushottapur in this matter. He was formerly Sub-Magistrate of Ganjam, in which Kallikót is situated, and from the first moment that I consulted him never lost assurance that he would be able to ferret out information as to the property missing. To his efforts mainly I attribute the partial success attained in the finding of the property, and to his influence chiefly the delivery up of the Zemindar's valuable jewels. I trust the Court will sanction the payment to him of Rs. 2,000 for his valuable services and the payment of the sums shown in list F to the peons and police who marched with me 25 miles on the night of the 31st May and continued working hard the next and following days.

21. The work connected with the Kallikót and Atagadá estates requires a great deal of time and attention. I have hitherto kept it in my own hands, but propose, as soon as Mr. Howell returns from his tour of inspection of treasuries of the district, to put my General Deputy Collector in immediate charge. He has a thorough knowledge of Uriya and I have a good opinion of his abilities and honesty.

ENCLOSURE A (with Statements 2, 3, 4, 5).—Treasury Deputy Collector's report on the examination of the accounts.

[Statement.]

ENCLOSURE B.  
DETAILED statement showing the persons employed temporarily in the Ganjam Collector's office for the scrutiny of the accounts belonging to the late Zemindar of Kallikót and Atagadá taluks.

| Serial number. | Names of the incumbents.            | Name of the post held in the temporary establishment. | Government appointment, if any, held by the incumbent.                             | Rate of salary in the temporary appointment. | Period during which the incumbent held the temporary appointment. |                | Amount of salary paid to the incumbent in the temporary appointment. | Remarks.                                                                                        |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                |                                     |                                                       |                                                                                    |                                              | From                                                              | To             |                                                                      |                                                                                                 |
| 1              | Anupindi Srimukhalingam *           | Head Clerk                                            | Cash clerk, Goomsur taluk office, and acting vernacular clerk, Collector's office. | Rs. A. P.<br>30 0 0                          | 28th Oct. 1887                                                    | 31st Jan. 1888 | Rs. A. P.<br>93 13 11                                                |                                                                                                 |
| 2              | Kanteti Ramiah *                    | Clerk                                                 | Shroff, Huzur treasury                                                             | 25 0 0                                       | 25th "                                                            | 31st "         | 80 10 4                                                              |                                                                                                 |
| 3              | Nyabilli Venkatarathnam *           | Do.                                                   | Second clerk, Assistant Collector's office.                                        | 25 0 0                                       | 1st Nov. "                                                        | 31st Oct. 1887 | 75 0 0                                                               |                                                                                                 |
| 4              | Lakshman Padhi                      | Do.                                                   | Sub. <i>pro tem.</i> assistant audit clerk.                                        | 20 0 0                                       | 25th Oct. "                                                       | 31st Jan. 1888 | 4 8 3                                                                | From 28th to 31st Oct. at Rs. 15 per mensem and from 1st Nov. 1887 to 10th Jan. 1888 at Rs. 20. |
| 5              | Kanugo Krishnamurthy *              | Do.                                                   | ....                                                                               | 15 & 20 0 0                                  | 28th "                                                            | 10th Jan. 1888 | 48 6 3                                                               |                                                                                                 |
| 6              | Abhimanya Patnaik                   | Do.                                                   | Acting vernacular clerk                                                            | 20 0 0                                       | 1st Nov. "                                                        | 22nd "         | 54 3 1                                                               |                                                                                                 |
| 7              | Nathan Patro *                      | Do.                                                   | Attendant, Collector's office.                                                     | 16 0 0                                       | 5th "                                                             | 24th "         | 39 9 10                                                              |                                                                                                 |
| 8              | Gopabandhu Patnaik *                | Do.                                                   | Do.                                                                                | 16 0 0                                       | 25th Oct. "                                                       | 31st "         | 43 6 2                                                               |                                                                                                 |
| 9              | Saigaram Ramadoss                   | Do.                                                   | Do.                                                                                | 15 0 0                                       | 25th Nov. "                                                       | 31st "         | 43 6 2                                                               |                                                                                                 |
| 10             | Nallecheruvu Venkata Jagannadharow. | Do.                                                   | Do.                                                                                | 15 0 0                                       | 7th Nov. "                                                        | 31st "         | 42 0 0                                                               |                                                                                                 |
| 11             | Bharata Patnaik                     | Do.                                                   | ....                                                                               | 15 0 0                                       | 25th Oct. "                                                       | 24th "         | 45 0 0                                                               | Rupees five hundred and eighty only.                                                            |
|                |                                     |                                                       |                                                                                    |                                              |                                                                   | Total ..       | 580 0 0                                                              |                                                                                                 |

(Signed) J. G. HORSFALL,  
Collector.

ENCLOSURE C.—Abstract of valuation statement of jewellery, &c., brought away from Kallikót to Chatrapur.

ENCLOSURE D.—List of debts due by the late Zemindar of Kallikót and Atagadá.

ENCLOSURE E.—List of jewels given by the Minor Zemindar of Kallikót and Atagadá to the Collector of Ganjam on 3rd June 1888.

ENCLOSURE F.—List of rewards recommended to be paid to police constables and peons.

RESOLUTION—dated 21st July 1888, No. 1574.

The thanks of the Court will be conveyed to Mr. Horsfall for the very careful and zealous manner in which he has worked in discovering a portion of the hidden treasure of the late Zemindar and in recovering a portion of the valuable jewels belonging to him. The recovery of the remainder should not be lost sight of, and a proclamation should be issued by beat of drum in the neighbouring villages offering a reward of Rs. 5,000 for such information as will lead to its discovery. The Mahadevi should also be warned that she renders herself liable to a criminal prosecution by concealment of the treasure and jewels, which could not have been effected without her knowledge and consent. In view of the fraud, too, that has been perpetrated, no valuable jewels belonging to the estate should be left either with the Minor or the Mahadevi, and the latter's allowances should be reduced to the most economical scale. There should be a complete change in the establishment in every branch, and Jan Patnaik should be carefully excluded, as recommended.

2. The payment of Rs. 580, being the pay of the temporary establishment entertained for examining the accounts, is sanctioned. The Collector asks for the sanction of Government to the temporary loan of the servants whose names he has marked with an asterisk in enclosure B; but this transfer, the duty under the Court of Wards being only special and temporary and not lasting more than six months, the Board, under the power delegated to them by Government in G.Os. dated 16th November 1886 and 17th May 1888, Nos. 1465 and 1010, respectively, are competent to, and now do, sanction. No. 5 on the list holds no permanent appointment, and no sanction is therefore necessary in his case. The payment of Rs. 180 to the jeweller is also sanctioned.

3. The Collector states that he has received private information that Rs. 40,000 were expended for the purpose of gaining the Court of Wards' sanction for the detention and education of the Minors at Kallikót instead of at Parlákimedi. He will be requested to inquire further and ascertain, if possible, the names of the persons to whom it was disbursed, the amounts paid to each and the services in consideration of which they were paid.

4. The Court have already sanctioned the removal of the Minors from Kallikót, in their Proceedings, dated 16th June 1888, No. 1262, and 3rd July 1888, No. 1406. The other arrangements made by the Collector are approved.

5. The Collector proposes, in his paragraph 20, the grant of a reward of R. 2,000 to the Deputy Tahsildar of Purushottapur and of one of Rs. 100 to the ten peons and constables who assisted him. The Court have pleasure in bringing the conduct of the Deputy Tahsildar to the notice of Government, and will be glad, with the permission of Government, to grant the rewards recommended. The amounts, in the case of the peons and constables, are small, viz., only Rs. 10 each.

6. The Court notice that the Collector reports that if Mr. Pinhey had carried out the instructions he had received from Mr. Horsfall himself he must have

discovered the existence of the underground vault. The Court are constrained to place on record an expression of their severe displeasure at the superficial and perfunctory manner in which Mr. Pinhey discharged a most important duty, in regard to which he had previously received express instructions. It ought not to have been necessary for the Collector to undertake business upon which his Assistant had been specially deputed. The loss sustained is very serious, and there can be little or no doubt that it might have been prevented had Mr. Pinhey zealously exerted himself. The Collector will warn Mr. Pinhey to be more careful hereafter in the discharge of his duties.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. A. SIM,  
Acting Secretary.

To the Collector of Ganjam.  
" Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.  
" Accountant-General.

Exd. E. Fernandez.

18th October  
1888, No. 906 +  
14th April 1888  
No. 266 Rev.  
communicated  
with the Court  
Proceedings dated  
16th November 1888  
+ 17th May 1888  
Nos. 1465 + 1010  
respectively

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1888.

Court of Wards,  
MADRAS.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Printed

Proceedings, dated 21st July 1888,  
No. 1574.

Passing orders on report from the Collector of Ganjam regarding the discovery of hidden treasure at Kallikot estate and other matters relating to the estate.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

\* Copy attached.

1931/5  
Read Proceedings of the Court of Wards, 21 July 1888, No. 1574.

Order thereon, 27 Aug. 1888, No. 5063.

The Govt. appreciate the good services rendered in this case by the Deputy Tahsildar of Purnohottapur and desire that he may be so informed. They do not, however, consider it proper to allow him to accept so large a pecuniary reward as the Court of Wards propose to grant him for having merely done his duty, but will not object to his being presented with a handsome gold bangle with a suitable inscription. The Board of Revenue will also take an early opportunity of promoting him to a Tahsil. In the case of the peons & constables there is no objection to the grant of the rewards proposed.

The Court's Proceedings are in other respects approved.  
(The extract.)

To the Court of Wards  
" Judicial Dept.  
" Secy. to Govt.  
C. Secy. to Govt.

Govt. of 1888 Madras.

REVENUE.

To

The Ind. Dept.



Dated

Reed.

1/9/88.

Encl.

Mis. G.O., 27 Aug. 1888, No. 5063.

SUBJECT.

Passing order on  
the recommendation of the Court  
of Ward for the grant  
of certain rewards in  
connection with the dis-  
covery of hidden trea-  
sure at Kallikot-choh.

40. 11 Sep 88 N. 1937

Recorded.

sep 88  
6 Sep 88

No. 113  
of 1888.  
ORDINARY, MS.

|                                        |
|----------------------------------------|
| <i>Judt.</i> DEPARTMENT.               |
| G.O., DATED 11 <sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER |
| No. 1937.                              |

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When given for copying

[Despatch Abstract.]

*Discovery of hidden treasure  
at Kallakot Estate*

*7 Sheets  
P. No. 1 to 6*