M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 20

(2) Date of repair 12-7-43

(3) Initials of the Referencer

CONCERNS BOTH BRITISH INDIA
AND INDIAN STATES.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2299-2300 Press / Mis.

25-27

Dated 15. 12. 1857.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 25. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer, dated 12th November 1857, No. 5152.

Read the following letter from Lieutenant F. T. HAIG, District Engineer Upper Godavery; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated Ship Nubia near Suez, 16th October 1857.

SIR,

The river transit duties formerly levied by the Zemindars on the banks of the Godavery have been abolished. During my stay at Doomgoodem last working season, the most positive orders to this effect were sent from Hydrabad to the Naib of the Pulouncha or Budrachellum Zemindary, and in two instances which I brought to his notice, of infringement of these orders, he gave prompt redress to the aggrieved parties. No arrangement has however yet been made for compensating the Zemindars for the loss which the abolition of the duties inflicts upon them. One or two of them brought the subject to my notice when last on the Godavery and as I omitted then to bring it forward officially, I must now address you respecting it, as it is one which ought not at any time, and still less at the present time, to be postponed. I have had no opportunity of communicating on this question with any of the Zemindars above the Central Barrier, but as very few tolls have at any time been levied at any point higher up the river than that, the information I possess is sufficient for my present purpose.

2. Between Purnasula (at the head of the Central Barrier) and the Sea, the only persons who formerly levied tolls on goods passing down river, were, the Rajah of Budrachellum the Rajah of Rakapilly, and a man named Soobby Reddy who lives at the entrance of the narrow pass in the hills about 30 miles above Rajahmundry.

3. Of these the first, derived an annual revenue of 5,000 Rupees from this source, but as this was nearly all paid to the Nizam, his own profits were very small, and if the Hydrabad Government cease to demand payment of this portion of his Peshcush, he will lose little or nothing by the abolition of the tax.

4. The Rajah of Rakapilly is the most independent man in that part of the country, though nominally a dependent of the Rajah of Budrachellum. He has always levied heavy tolls on all goods passing his chowky at the mouth of the Sebbery, but no one knows, and he will not say, what his annual profits have been. He pays a total Peshcush of only about 1,500 Rupees to the Nizam.

5. Soobby Reddy of Sirrivâka states that the taxes he formerly levied were worth 1,000 Rupees per annum to him, and I believe this is about the truth. He is a dependent of our own Government, and was summarily deprived of the power of levying tolls by the Collector of Rajahmundry several years ago, and is now, and as I believe in consequence of this, reduced to beggary.

6. The whole of these duties were it is true abolished by the Treaty of 1802 between the British Government, and the Nizam, but as our Government has never since that time until the last few years, taken any interest in the Godavery or its trade, and the Nizam has always derived a trifling amount of revenue from the river duties, the provisions of the Treaty were never enforced, probably never even communicated to the Zemindars, and in the half century which has elapsed, the immemorial right, such as it was, which they possessed to the tax has never been questioned. It was handed down unimpaired to the present proprietors and they cannot, I think now be justly deprived of it without compensation. I was not sufficiently acquainted with the facts of the case when I assumed in my report of the 3rd May 1856, that there was no necessity, for compensation. I think now that it ought to be given as a matter of right, and would recommend that in communication with the Government of the Nizam the amount to be given in each case, should at once be determined and paid. It will, as I have said be very small in amount.

7. The Nizam's Government may be reminded that the remission to the Rajah of Budrachellum of the 5,000 Rupees of revenue, which he has annually paid on account of the river tolls, is plainly required by the terms of the recent Treaty which prohibits them. If this is done I do not think the Rajah will ask for any remuneration for himself as the whole of the revenue he has hitherto derived from this source, has nominally gone to the Nizam.

8. The Rajah of Rakapilly's right to levy tolls is denied by the Rajah of Budrachellum and I believe does not exist. Inquiry may be made, but in his case I believe little or no compensation is due.

9. Soobby Reddy of Sirrivâka has been ruined by the abolition of the tolls, though I believe his right to them was as good, and of as long standing, as that of the other proprietors. It was taken from him some years ago without any warning, and he is reduced almost to beggary in consequence. I fear we have treated him both unjustly and unmercifully, and I would most strongly recommend that an immediate inquiry should be made into his case by the Collector of Rajahmundry with a view to compensating him for the losses he has sustained. He estimates them as I have mentioned at 1,000 Rupees a year.

10. The total amount of compensation to be given in this way to all the Zemindars between Sirrivâka and the Prunheeta would not, I think exceed 5,000 Rupees per annum, and if this was granted for 10 years to come, it would be sufficient, as by the end of that time their properties would have increased in value far beyond this amount, in consequence of the opening of the navigation, and the irrigation in connexion with the river works. In the case of the Zemindars in the Nizam's country it will be necessary to communicate with the Hydrabad Government, and sometime will probably elapse before any thing can be done, but there will be no such hinderance to immediate action in Soobby Reddy's case, and as he has been by far the greatest sufferer, I hope he will be promptly remunerated.

Resolved that copy of the foregoing letter of the 16th October 1857, from the Civil Engineer of the Upper Godavery, be forwarded to Government with the Chief Engineer's recommendation, that the Collector of Rajahmundry may be authorized to make due compensation to Soobby Reddy, should he on investigation be considered entitled to it.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) C. E. FABER, Colonel,
Chief Engineer.

No. 26. ORDER THEREON, No. 2299; dated 10th December 1857.

Ordered to be communicated to the Board of Revenue with a request that they will call on the Collector of Rajahmundry to report on Soobby Reddy's case, referred to in the letter from the District Engineer Upper Godavery. The Board will be so good as to inform the Collector, that his report will be looked for at an early date.

2. Ordered also that a copy of Lieutenant Haig's letter be forwarded to the Resident at Hydrabad, for the consideration of the Nizam's Government, with reference to the case of the Zemindar of Budrachellum, and of any other subjects of that Government, who may have sustained losses by the abolition of the transit duties formerly levied on the banks of the Godavery.

(Signed) H. FORBES,
Acting Secretary to Government.

No. 27. Ordered in consequence that the following letter be despatched.

From H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George; to Major C. DAVIDSON, Resident at Hydrabad, dated 10th December 1857, No. 2300.

SIR,

I am directed by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to forward copy of a letter* from Lieutenant Haig, District Engineer, Upper Godavery, to the address of the Chief Engineer in the Department of Public Works, reporting that, by orders from the Nizam's Government passed at the instance of this

* 16th October 1857,

Government, the transit duties formerly levied by the Zemindars on the banks of the Godavery have been abolished, and recommending that compensation may be granted to the Zemindar of Buddrachellum, and to one Soobby Reddy of Sirriavâka, for the losses which they have sustained in consequence.

2. The Governor in Council has called on the Collector of Rajahmundry, through the Board of Revenue, to report on the case of Soobby Reddy, who is subject to this Government; and I am desired to refer the case of the Zemindar of Buddrachellum, and of any others who may be similarly situated, for the consideration of the Government of His Highness the Nizam.

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PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Public.

Fort Saint George,

10*th December* 1857.

No. 2300.

From

H. FORBES, Esq.,

Acting Secretary to the Government of Fort St. George.

To

MAJOR C. DAVIDSON,

Resident at Hydrabad.

SIR,

I am directed by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to forward copy of a letter* from Lieutenant Haig, District Engineer, Upper Godavery, to the address of the Chief Engineer in the Department of Public Works, reporting that, by orders from the Nizam's Government passed at the instance of this Government, the transit duties formerly levied by the Zemindars on the banks of the Godavery have been abolished, and recommending that compensation may be granted to the Zemindar of Buddrachellum, and to one Soobby Reddy of Sirriavâka, for the losses which they have sustained in consequence.

* 16th October 1857,

2. The Governor in Council has called on the Collector of Rajahmundry, through the Board of Revenue, to report on the case of Soobby Reddy, who is subject to this Government; and I am desired to refer the case of the Zemindar of Buddrachellum, and of any others who may be similarly situated, for the consideration of the Government of His Highness the Nizam.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Signed) H. FORBES,

Acting Secretary to Government.

which

Political Dept. 1st Sr.
No

No. 2300

Major C. Davidson
Resident at Hyderabad

Sir

I am directed by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to forward copy of a letter from Lieut. Haig, District Engineer Upper Godavery, to the address of the Chief Engineer in the Department of Public Works, reporting that, by orders from the Nizams Government passed at the instance of the Government the transit duties formerly levied by the Zemindars on the banks of the Godavery have been abolished, and recommending that compensation may be granted to the Zemindar of Buddrachellum, and to one Soobby Reddy of Sirriawaka, for the losses which

× 16th October 1857.

which they have sustained in consequence.

The Governor in Council has called on the Collector of Rajahmundry, through the Board of Revenue to report on the case of Soobby Reddy, who is subject to the ~~c~~ of this Government and I am desired to refer the case of the Zemindar of Buddrachellum, and of any others who may be similarly situated, for the consideration of the Government of His Highness the Nizam.

Fort St. George
10 Dec. 1857

No. 3752.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer in the Department of Public Works.

Under date the 12th November 1857.

Read the following Letter

From
Lieut. F. T. Haig
Dist. Engr. Upper Godavery

To The Chief Engineer D.P.W.
Fort Saint George

Sir,

1 The River transit duties formerly levied by the Zemindars on the banks of the Godavery have been abolished. During my tour at Dowlaiswaram last working season, the most positive orders to this effect were sent from Nyabad to the Naib of the Pulavarchid or Pudvachellum Zemindary, and in the instances which I brought to his notice, of infringement of these orders, he gave prompt redress to the aggrieved parties. No arrangement has however yet been made for compensating the Zemindars for the loss which the abolition of the duties inflicts upon them. One or two of them brought the subject to my notice when last on the Godavery and I omitted then to bring it forward officially

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Public Works Dept.
Dated Cam. 1st Dec.

No. 2300.

To the President of
Fort St. George.

Sir,

Referring to your letter from Secretary to Govt. Public Works Dept. dated 27th ult. No. 3752, I have the honor to forward herewith a letter from Lieut. Haig, Assistant Engineer, suggesting that compensation may be granted to the Zemindars of Pudvachellum and Pulavarchid for the loss they have sustained by the abolition of the transit duties levied by them on the banks of the Godavery river.

2 Lieut. Haig has not stated the amount of compensation which he considers should be granted to the Zemindars, but I am of opinion that the case of the Zemindars of Pudvachellum and Pulavarchid should be considered by Government.

I have &c.

(Signed) [illegible]

No. 27.

C. 27th Nov. No. 3 Dec.

I must now address you respecting it, as it is one which ought not at any time, and still less at the present time, to be postponed. I have had no opportunity of communicating on this question with any of the Zemindars above the Central Barrier, but as very few tolls have at any time been levied at any point higher up the river than that, the information I possess is sufficient for my present purpose.

2. Between Punnasula (at the head of the Central barrier) and the sea, the principal who formerly levied tolls on goods passing down river, were, the Rajah of Bundrachellum and the Rajah of Ruttupilly, and a man named Lobby Peddy who lives at the entrance of the narrow pass in the hills about 30 miles above Rajahmundry.

3. Of these the first, derived an annual Revenue of 5000 Rupees from this source, but as this was nearly all paid to the Nizam his own profits were very small, and if the Hyderabad Government chose to demand payment of this portion of his Peshcush he will lose little or nothing by the abolition of the tax.

4. The Rajah of Ruttapilly is the most independent man in that part of the Country, though nominally a dependant of the Rajah of Bundrachellum. He has always levied heavy tolls on all goods passing thro' his Country at the

mouth of the Lobbery, but no one knows, and he will not say, what the annual profits have been. He pays a total peshcush of only about 1500 Cs to the Nizam.

5. Lobby Peddy of Purvatha State that the taxes he formerly levied were worth 1000 Cs per annum to him, and I believe this is about the truth. He is a dependant of our own Government, and was summarily deprived of the power of levying tolls by the Collector of Rajahmundry several years ago, and is now, and as I believe in consequence of this, poorer by one-quarter.

6. The whole of these duties were it is true abolished by the Treaty of 1802 between the British Government, and the Nizam, but as our Government has never since that time until the last few years, taken any interest in the Godavery or its Banks, and the Nizam has always derived a trifling amount of Revenue from the two duties, the provisions of the Treaty were never enforced, probably never even communicated to the Zemindars, and in the half century which has elapsed, the immemorial right, such as it was, which they professed to the taxes had never been questioned. It was handed down unimpaired to the present proprietors and they cannot, I think now be justly deprived of it without Compensation. I am not

not sufficiently acquainted with the facts of the case when I assumed in my letter of the 3d May /58 that there was no necessity for Compensation. I think now that it ought to be given as a matter of right, and would recommend that in communication with the Government of the Nizam the amount to be given in each case, should at once be determined and paid. It will, as I have said be very small in amount.

7 The Nizam's Government may be reminded that the remissions to the Rajah of Bidrachellem of the 5000 Rs of revenue, which he has annually paid on account of these rivers tolls, is plainly required by the terms of the recent treaty which prohibits them. If this is done I do not think the Rajah will ask for any remuneration for himself as the whole of the revenue he has hitherto derived from this source has nominally gone to the Nizam.

8 The Rajah of Rakapilly's right to levy tolls is denied by the Rajah of Bidrachellem and I believe does not exist. Inquiry may be made, but in his case I believe little or no compensation is due.

9 Sooltry Reddy of Sirsiadilla has been pointed by the Collector of the Dis-

trict

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though I believe his right to them was as good and of as long standing, as that of the other proprietors. It was taken from him some years ago without any warning, and he is reduced almost to beggary in consequence. I fear we have treated him both ungratefully and unmercifully, and I would most strongly recommend that an immediate inquiry should be made into his case by the Collector of Rajahmundry with a view to compensating him for the loss he has sustained. He estimates them as I have mentioned at 1000 Rs a year.

10 The total amount of compensation to be given in this way to all the Zemindars between Sirsiadilla and the Runkeetra would not I think exceed 5000 Rs per annum, and if this was granted for 10 years to come, it would be sufficient, as by the end of that time their properties would have increased in value far beyond this amount, in consequence of the opening of the navigation, and the irrigations in connexion with the river works. In the case of the Zemindars in the Nizam's country it will be necessary to communicate with the Hyderabad Government, and some time will probably elapse before any thing can be done, but

but there will be no such hindrance to immediate action in Bobby Reddy's case, and as he has been by far the greatest sufferer I hope he will be promptly remunerated.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Most Obdt. Servant
(Signed) F. T. Haig Lt.
Dy. Engr. Upper Godavery
(on duty in Europe)

Ships Nubia
Near Suez
16 Octr. /57

Resolved that a copy of the foregoing letter of the 16th October 1857 from the Civil Engineer of the Upper Godavery be forwarded to Government with the Chief Engineer's recommendation that the Collector of Rajahmundry may be authorized to make due compensation to Bobby Reddy, should he on investigation be considered entitled to it.

(Signed) C. Haig
Lieut. Colonel
Chief Engineer

To
The Secretary to Government
P.W.D.

No. 2299

Ordered to be communicated to the Board of Revenue with a request that they will call on the Collector of Rajahmundry to report on Soobby Reddy's case, referred to in the letter from the District Engr. Upper Godavery. The Board will be so good as to inform the Collector, that his report will be looked for at an early date.

2. Ordered also that a —

Fort St. George
10th Dec. 1857

3 Copies to the Bd. of Rev. Pay. II
3 — Resdt. Hyderabad

CONCERNS BOTH BRITISH INDIA
AND INDIAN STATES.

P.W. Public 1854 Department.
Dis Cons 15 Dec.
No 2225.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer.

To

The Secretary to Govt
D. P. W.

Dated 12th November 1854
Received 13th November 1854
Extract from No. 2325 Dated 6th Nov. 1854

No 5152 1854

Submitting Letter from the District Engineer Upper Godavery Division, with the Chief Engineer's recommendation, that the Collector of Rajahmundry may be authorised to make due Compensation to Lobby Reddy for the Losses he has sustained on the abolition of the Tolls on the River Transit duties on the banks of the Godavery should he, on investigation be considered entitled to it.—

No 2799 1st Dec.
Wetherall
Acdn

No 25 & 26.

Chw. R 24th Ca 27th & 28th Dec