

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 26

Press
Mis.

49. 50.

Dated

5-1-18 61.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
5th January 1861.*

No. 49. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 10th December 1860, No. 5,776:—

Read the Proceedings of Government, dated 13th September 1860, Revenue Department, No. 1593.

(In Cons. 14th September 1860, No. 4,603.)

1. Ordered to be forwarded to the Collector of Madura, who will communicate the remarks contained in the Secretary of State's Despatch of the 9th August 1860, to the Zamindár of Shivaganga.

2. With reference to the report called for by Government on the condition of the assets of the Zamindári when assumed by the proprietor, the Board find that the Zamindári was brought under the charge of the Court of Wards, on the 4th April 1849, or at the end of Fasli 1258. From the accounts furnished by the Collector of Madura for Faslis 1258 and 1259, it appears that on the 31st December 1849, there was in the Treasury, to the credit of the Zamindár, a net balance of Rupees 2,666-6-6 after deducting the charges of collection up to that date.

3. The arrears outstanding against the Ryots at that time amounted to no less a sum than 5 lacs of Rupees.

4. During the period the Estate has been under management, private debts previously contracted have been paid off to the extent of 2,40,182 Rupees, and the net balance made over to the Zamindár on the 10th November 1859 amounted to Rupees 7,13,086, the aggregate of these sums being 9,53,268.

5. When the Court's management ended, old private debts to the amount of 39,486 were outstanding, owing entirely to the non-appearance of the claimants; against this there were 76,797-4-5 due by the Ryots of the Zamindári for current revenue, and 52,803 recoverable arrears of older date.

6. At the date the Estate was restored to the Zamindár, of the aggregate demand accruing in Fasli 1268 (A. D. 1858-59), and amounting to the unprecedented amount of 6,43,083 Rupees, 88 per cent. had been collected, which the Collector shows was a great improvement on former years. During the ten previous years, the collections at this date had not averaged more than 72 per cent. of the demand.

7. The Collector represents that the Ryots of Zamindári are "as a class impoverished and worse off than the Government cultivators," and that there "is very great difficulty" in realizing from them their Kists.

8. In 1859, owing to the pressure of a succession of adverse seasons, and to their knowledge that the Estate would at an early date be restored to the proprietor, they were more than usually backward in paying their rents, and the Zamindár's servants very remiss in collecting them.

9. At the conclusion of his annual report for Fasli 1268, the Collector contrasts the condition of the Estate when it came under the charge of the Court of Wards with that on which it was restored to its proprietor.

He says, "The Court is well aware of the state in which the affairs of the Zamindári were found at the time of its coming under their charge in April 1849. There was an uncollected balance of about 5 lacs of Rupees. Zamindári was burthened with a multitude of debts and a great number of intricate and doubtful claims; the sources of irrigation had all been allowed to fall into decay; the accounts and vouchers were in great confusion and disorder, and the Zamindári itself was under litigation.

"Owing to the care, labor and ability of the late Collector Mr. Parker, aided by the late Head Sarishtadár Ram Ráu, I was enabled to hand over the Estate to the proprietor in a condition which affords a gratifying proof of the efficiency as well as economy of the superintendence of my predecessor. The restoration of the works of irrigation and careful manage-

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"ment have raised the revenue to an unprecedented height, exceeding any thing realized in
"the time of the Zamindári, or during the former administration by the Collector. The
"balance outstanding against the Ryots though large is, in comparison with former years, small,
"and some of these arrears are merely nominal, kept on the books without the slightest prospect
"of realization. This irrecoverable arrears will now, I hope, be swept away. The debts against
"the Estate have almost all been settled (those still remaining unliquidated are owing to the
"laches of the creditors), and a realized capital of 7 lacs is standing to the credit of the Zamín-
"dár. The greater number of the tanks and sources of irrigation have been restored and placed
"in order. The produce, instead of being sold to merchants and the Ryots subjected to the
"oppression of middlemen, is given to the latter at the average market price. Many irregu-
"larities have been rectified and order in a great measure restored. All this has been done
"gradually; improvement has been steadily going on, and I trust will continue to be made
"under the present administration of the Zamindár and his Officers."

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Acting Secretary.*

No. 50.

ORDER THEREON, 5th January 1861, No. 26.

1. A copy of this report will be forwarded to the Secretary of State, with reference to paragraph 4 of his Despatch of the 9th August, No. 54 of 1860.

2. The Government hope that it will be deemed as satisfactory by Sir C. Wood as it is by them.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Acting Secretary to Government.

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