M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 924 — Press / ~~Mis.~~

404-405

Dated 23. 4. 1861.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 404. Read the following letter from C. PELLY, Esq., Member of the Board of Revenue, to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Chepauk, 19th April 1861, No. 843:—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to submit for the Orders of Government an application (with accompanying correspondence*) from the Collector of Madras for an Extra Temporary Establishment of twenty-four Zilladárs on 8 Rupees each per month, being at the rate of four Zilladárs for each Táluq and costing in the whole 192 Rupees per month, to enable him to collect the current Revenues, until the Village Establishments are settled, without this aid, the Collector assures me that there will certainly be a heavy balance at the end of the year, and a sum eventually written off as irrecoverable, to which, in comparison the expenditure sought for, Rupees 192, for a few months will be but a small portion.

* From Collector, 5th December 1860, No. 483.
To do. 25th January 1861, ,, 692.
From do. 6th April 1861, ,, 7.
To. do. 8th April 1861, ,, 832.
From do. 16th ,, ,, 10.

2. As the Collector has strongly and repeatedly expressed his inability to collect the Revenue of his District, unless the assistance asked for is granted, I beg to submit his requisition for the immediate consideration and Orders of Government, as the time of collections is passing away.

3. But I must confess that it is with much reluctance that I have to submit the Collector's proposition, involving as it does a re-introduction of the objectionable system of retaining a number of low paid Táluq servants for the performance of the duties properly belonging to the Village Officers; and also because I cannot but think that had the Collector acted with decision on the suggestion, presently explained, which I made to him, the difficulties he complained of would have been greatly lessened.

† 5th December 1860.
‡ 25th January 1860.

4. On Mr. Cunliffe's making his first application† for this Extra Establishment, I replied‡ and expressed my opinion that the Maniakarens, though hitherto not directly remunerated for their services, should be required to attend to the collection of the Revenue, and suggested that, if the men now in office neglected to do their work, they should be dismissed, and other deserving men appointed in their stead. It is known, and was admitted by Mr. Cunliffe himself, that the office though unpaid was nevertheless sought after; and it was naturally inferred that if those now in office refused to do the duty, others would be glad to undertake it, until some fixed remuneration was sanctioned for their services.

Letter, 6th April 1861.

5. Two months after my letter to him Mr. Cunliffe repeated his application for this Extra Establishment, but in doing so made no reference whatever to the measure I had suggested for enforcing a due performance of their duty from the Maniakarens. The Collector never tried what effect the deposition from office of some of the useless men, as recommended by me, might have; and on my asking for explanation he reports that "he issued no orders consequent on my letter, as he did not anticipate any good result from them, that the every-day experience of a Collector showed in his opinion that general directions to public Officers to perform their duty on pain of dismissal are of no avail, and that such a dereliction of duty as not collecting the Revenues cannot be brought home to the collecting Officer, who can always bring forward some excuse or other for not having realized payment." I cannot look on this as a satisfactory answer. My recommendation was not "to issue general orders," but to take action and dismiss a few of the men and appoint others who would do the duty. Had the Collector with promptitude given that expedient a fair trial he would not probably have had to apply for this objectionable Extra Establishment of Zilladárs.

6. It is said that "the main burden of the work of collections fell on a very active class of Revenue servants, the Zilladárs, who on the kists becoming due travelled through their divisions, and urged on the villagers the payment of the Land Revenue." This practice no doubt prevails not only in Madras,

See Mr. Ellis' letter, dated 30th November 1860.

but more or less in all Districts, but the head man takes the prominent part in collecting and is responsible for the Revenue. Where the Maniakaren is inefficient the Curnum very frequently does this work; and in the Madras Collectorate there is a large body of Curnums receiving liberal emoluments, and the Collector might have had recourse to their services to collect the Revenue, had he found the Maniakarens impracticable before he came up for an Extra Establishment.

7. Mr. Cunliffe seems to suppose that Maniakarens are paid every where except in the Madras District. In many places, however, it will be found, that they receive little or nothing; and as yet I have not heard of other Collectors complaining that for want of these Zilladárs they had not been able to realize the Revenue.

8. But it is a mistake to suppose the Madras Maniakarens are really unremunerated for the services they should perform. They as a body of Mirassidars of the village receive large emoluments in Maniem privileges, not distinctly indeed given for the performance of the duties of Maniakarens; but these immunities and privileges do no doubt carry with them certain responsibilities. The Mirassidars are or were bound to keep up the cultivation of the Village, and the State looked to them for the punctual payment of the Revenues, and the internal administration of the Village, and for convenience one of their body was generally selected for transacting business with the Government Officials, and thus came to be the recognized head of the Village, which distinction also brought with it some indirect advantages.

9. My report on the Village Establishments of Madras will, I trust, be before Government in a day or two, but the present application of the Collector requires the immediate Orders of Government.

No. 405. ORDER THEREON, 23rd April 1861, No. 924.

Under the circumstances stated, His Excellency the Governor in Council sanctions the entertainment of twenty-four Zilladárs on Rupees (8) eight each per mensem in the District of Madras, to aid in collecting the current Revenues. This sanction is granted as a temporary arrangement only, subject to the revision of the Village Establishments.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,
Secretary to Government.

24
8
192
12
2304
11
12/21344
1770

(5)

not - I apprehend that under the circumstances this application must be complied with; but I think the Collector has acted with culpable expedience. I think he ought to have tried the common resources by the Pally; & in the prospect of early arrangements for paying the Ryots, I cannot doubt that if vigorously acted on that course would have been fully efficacious. But if he was satisfied, as he says, that it was necessary to attempt to make the Ryots do their duty, he ought certainly to have applied to Mr Pelly immediately to that effect, instead of waiting in total inaction for two months.

Mr Pelly's ~~not~~ statement of the terms & duties of the Maniakars seems to me certainly true; I apprehend the Village Maniam in that District was originally or chiefly a remuneration for service as the similar Maniams in South Arcot; but having been so long allowed to be regarded as

Paid Yearly
Cudalore

free from obligation of service, I fear that ob-ligation could not now be enforced.

It will be necessary therefore to provide some remuneration for the vil-lage moonigars; & this I presume will be done by Mr. Pelly's scheme referred to in Para. 9 –

[signature]

Ap. 20.

Rev: Dept.

No. 924

Proceedings of the Govt. of Madras
Under date 23d April 1861

Read the following letter from Mr. C Pelly
Dated the 19th April 1861
No 843

Under the circumstances stated H. E. the Governor in C. sanctions the entertainment of 24 Zilladars on Rs. 8/eight each per mensem in the District of Madras to aid in collecting the current revenues. This sanction is granted only as a temporary arrangement subject to the revision of the Village Establishment.

[signature]

Mt Copy to C. Pelly Esqr. Dispt. No. 23
4 Copies. C. Pelly Esqr. & 24
13 " Board of Revenue
3 " Accountant General
3 " Civil Auditor

Entertainment of Jil-
lodars in the Mex-
ican District

Revenue 1861 Dept of the
Rec. of Govt for Oct. Fris
No 924.

Rec. of William Lodar Govt
$29 Oct Fris 1861.

Franks Ch. 1570/A.

Questioning as a
testimony of arrangement
to entertainment of 24
Villadars on 8 Officer
each commencing with the
Alcalde District.

Nopal 4405.

Lieut - Immediate
in Mex.