

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Political DEPARTMENT.

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Fort Saint George, Political Consultation, 20th July 1858.

No. 1. From H. D. PHILLIPS, Esq., Commissioner of Tanjore; to E. MALTBY, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 13th June 1857, No. 185.

SIR,

1. Adverting to the communications marginally noted, I have the honor to submit the information I have been able to procure, relative to the Pagodas and their resources under control and management by Seevajee, the late Rajah of Tanjore.

Minutes of Consultation, 25th September 1856, para 4.
Do. do. 26th January 1857.

2. At the cession of the Tanjore province to the British Government under the Treaty of 1799, with Serfojee, father of the late Rajah, no arrangements were made in regard to the future disposition of these Institutions.

3. Certain negotiations were, however, subsequently entered into which ended in the Government consenting to "the appointment of an Officer From Government to Resident at Tanjore, " on the part of the Rajah, to ascertain the appropriation of the Revenues of the Pagodas, but without any control or authority over the expenditure. The " Collector or Judge will be directed to attend to any representations made by this Officer, regarding any abuses which he may state to exist in the application of the Revenues of the Pagodas," also that "the whole amount of the endowments of the Pagodas in the Fort of Tanjore must be paid in Cash by the Collector to the Resident, on account of the Rajah, in order that His Excellency may be exempted from all interference with the collections."

4. The aggregate number of Pagodas to which the above conditions appear to have had reference, is 102, of which 59 are within the Tanjore Fort and 43 beyond its limits, some* being in the neighbouring Districts of South Arcot and Trichinopoly.

*1 Streerenghum Renganadasawmy, in Trichinopoly.
2 Jumboocaswaraswamy, in do.
3 Chellumbrum Sabaputtyswamy in South Arcot.
4 Trinomaly Arnachetaswara Swamy, in do.

5. Under the letter of the compact thus made, the Rajah's direct authority should have extended only to the 59 institutions inside his Fort. In the sequel, however, he is found to have brought the others also under his control and administration, and this result seems to have been obtained as much from the term "Fort" having been conveniently regarded as comprehending the lands of the Rajah outside the Fort, as because a large number of the Pagodas† were situated in his "Mocassa" villages and those villages which formed the land endowments of the Choultries under his superintendence.

6. In a remote degree, the Rajah was connected with some important Pagodas in the Districts of South Arcot, and Trichinopoly to which certain sums were paid from the Raj Treasury, partly from the fixed amount granted by the Government allowances which passed through his hands and partly from his own Funds. In these Pagodas it was his practice to cause the celebration of "Oobbiums"† and other religious rites for the promotion of his own prosperity and happiness. We did not, however, take any part in the management of their affairs.

By Government approval

* Rupees 29,549-9-0.
† Rupees 7,554-3-6 in fusly 1265.
‡ Rupees 275-2-8

7. The main source of the income enjoyed by the Tanjore Pagodas is the "Tusdeek" or money allowance periodically derived from the Government, and the Revenue† of certain lands forming the endowments of the Institutions. They have in some instances, also, been in receipt of a periodical money‡ grant from the Rajah's Palace, as well as certain other minor items of Revenue which will be noticed in the sequel.

8. The first of these, or the Tusdeek, is a ready money payment made from the Government Treasury, partly in commutation of Sotuntarums, or grain fees, formerly paid by the Ryots to the several Institutions concerned.

9. The landed endowments consist of 5 entire Villages and "Gardens," so called, and 53 Pogul, or detached tracts of lands, and comprise, according to the accounts of the Curnums, an area of 277 Valies, of which 234 Valies are fit for cultivation, and 43 Valies are Porumboke. Nearly 6 Valies, however, are understood to have been appropriated, under the orders of the late Rajah, to objects unconnected with the Davastanums.

		10. The extent of
	Rs. A. P.	land actually cultivated
Demand of F 64.....	6,930 14 10	in Fusly 1265, was 187
Do. F 65.	7,554 3 7	Valies, yielding a Revenue
		of Rupees 7,554-3-7, which
	Increased 623 4 9	is Rupees 623-4-9 above
		the demand of the pre-
		vious year.

* Rupees 7,554 3 7	11. The aggregate demand Current* and Arrears,† for Fusly
† Rupees 13,655 1 3	1265, on account of the Revenue yielded by these landed endow-
‡ F. 65 883 1 4	ments, amounted to Rupees 21,249-4-10; of this sum Rupees
up to F. 65 12,499 1 3	7,574-13-11 had been realized prior to the attachment of the
	Pagodas and their Endowments, ordered by the late Commis-
13,382 2 7	sioner, Mr. H. Forbes, on the 23rd October last, on which
	date there consequently remained due an outstanding balance
	of Rupees 13,674-6-11, which has since been reduced to
	Rupees 13,382-2-7.‡

12. The greater portion of this sum, however, consists of old balances of long standing, spread over a long series of years, as it was the policy of the Rajah to keep old arrears hanging over the heads of the Ryots. In the absence, however, of the slightest prospect of any part of it being realized hereafter, its retention in the Accounts any longer, seems to me wholly useless and even objectionable, and the whole of the balance to the end of Fusly 1264 amounting to Rupees 12,499-1-3 should, I think, be remitted.

13. The 102 Pagodas have always been divided into 7 Firkahs, or Divisions, according to their situation and other circumstances; and the aggregate receipts from the different sources of income, and the disbursements during the past Fusly 1265 on account of these Institutions, distributed according to the above Divisions, are shown in the subjoined figured Abstract.

Firkas.	No. of Pagodas.	Receipts.				Deduct dis- bursements during Fusly 1265.	Remainder.	Average dis- bursements during the last five years.
		Balance on hand at the beginning of Fusly 1265.	Receipt dur- ing Fusly 1265.		Total.			
			Rs.	A. P.				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
		Rs.	A. P.	Rs.	A. P.	Rs.	A. P.	
1 Siven Cottah... ..	9	8,385 11 0	13,878 10 6	22,264 5 6	13,611 0 8	8,653 4 10	17,625 2 1	
2 Tanjore Fort	43	20,007 2 4	12,947 7 3	32,954 9 7	13,211 10 9	19,742 14 10	13,229 14 5	
3 Carattettangoody... ..	22	8,654 4 2	9,023 5 5	17,677 9 7	8,496 14 0	9,180 11 7	10,503 13 3	
4 Mariaminan Covil	4	26,510 10 0	19,609 8 6	46,120 2 6	13,608 3 3	32,511 15 3	11,631 7 1	
5 Sakhavarambapoor	6	18,508 6 2	5,246 10 11	23,755 1 8	5,338 7 5	18,416 10 3	6,405 1 1	
6 Cusbah Dimmut Cutcherry...	13	2,435 6 10	4,531 4 5	6,966 11 3	1,483 6 10	5,483 4 5	1,339 1 5	
Total...	102	84,501 9 1	65,236 15 0	1,49,738 8 1	55,749 10 11	93,988 13 2	60,734 7 4	

14. Thus, with a balance of Rupees 84,501-9-1, on hand at the commencement of Fusly 1265, the income derived during that year amounted to Rupees 55,749 10 11 65,236-15-0, making the total available assets Rs. 1,49,738-8-1. 4,984 12 5 The disbursements during the same period amounted to Rupees 55,749-10-11, which is Rupees 4,984-12-5 below the average expenditure of the last five years and does not call for remark. It should be explained, however, that under the head of receipts, are included not merely *bond fide* cash receipts, but also the estimated value of the Jewels of some of the Pagodas, and other property, which the late Rajah, it appears, directed should be shown in the Account Current of the Institutions, in view to the prevention of embezzlement, though the order has not been carried out in full in all cases. Of the large balance therefore, of

by Government order

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Rupees 93,988-13-2, exhibited in the foregoing Statement, the amount in ready Cash is but Rupees 89-15-9; the estimated value of provisions in Store for the use of the Pagodas Rupees 3,144-12-8; that of the Jewels of the Idols Rupees 22,606-15-8; the amount expended for Maranmut and other purposes not yet accounted for, Rupees 31,535-2-10; whilst the remaining sum of Rupees 36,611-11-10 is denominated "Vasacut," and consists of outstanding loans advanced by the Rajah's servants for various purposes.

15. With reference to this last item, it should be observed that it originated in the very lax system of management obtaining in the Palace, under which Funds belonging to one Department were advanced at pleasure for other purposes, often wholly unconnected with the former. Thus, of the sum above referred to as the amount of the outstanding loans, Rupees 11,200 appear to have been laid out under the orders of the late Rajah in the purchase of some lands in a Moccassah Village, and although after a time, the landed property in question was registered in the Accounts of the Pagodas as a set off for the money borrowed, the proceeds of the land have never yet been credited to the Institution, Rupees 13,350 are due from two Individuals to whom certain sums were lent by the Rajah from the Pagoda Funds. There were Rupees 4,251-12-0 allotted out of the general Funds of the Pagodas, for a special expensive religious Ceremony per-

formed in one* of them and the loan remains to be made

* *Brahatis Waraswami Pagoda.* good gradually from the Current Tusdeek of the latter, another item composing the "Vasacut" is a sum of Rupees 1,717-12-0, lent for keeping up a Pagoda which possesses no independent income of its own.

16. Besides these outstanding sums, there are about Rupees 5,000 payable out of the collections on account of Sayer, Abkarry, &c., originally assigned to some of the Pagodas. These customary payments appear to have been latterly withheld by the Rajah in some cases.

17. If there are thus large sums out-standing in the Accounts to the credit of the Pagodas, there are also debts due to the extent of Rupees 19,353-4-10 to Merchants and sundry dealers for Articles purchased for the use of the Institutions and to the Establishments as arrears of Salary.

18. As already explained in the case of the Chuttrums, it will be impossible at this distance of time, to retrieve the Devasthanum Accounts from the confusion in which they are involved and effect any satisfactory adjustment of these several items. To Government, 2nd May 1857, No. 170. It seems sufficient carefully to supervise the affairs of the Institutions from the period of their coming under our management. Some of the items, however, which are capable of adjustment will be settled.

19. The chief items composing the disbursements during Fusly 1265, shewn in the Statement appended to para : 13 above, are Rupees 24,988-10-7 for the religious Ceremonies performed in the Pagoda; Rupees 20,376-10-1 in liquidation of debts due for supplies, &c., and Rupees 10,384-6-3, the cost of the Establishment kept up for the management of the Pagodas and their endowments.

20. In 39 of the 102 Institutions, no separate ministerial Establishments have been employed, the Pagodas being either too small to require a separate controlling Agency; or, being situated in other Districts, an annual grant of money is sent to the local Darm-kutahs for the performance of certain stated Ceremonies designed for the welfare of the Rajah. For the manage-

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ment of the affairs of the other 63 Pagodas, however, there were Establishments allotted, of which the strength, cost and the different modes of remuneration, as existing at the date of attachment, are shown in the following table.

Firkas.	Total No. of Pagodas.	Deduct Pagodas which have no separate Establishment.	Remainder having Establishment.	Particulars of Establishment.				
				No. of Servants.	Amount of monthly Salary in ready money.	Monthly grain Allowance.	Daily Allowance of Raw Rice.	Daily Allowance of cakes of boiled Rice.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
					Rs. A. P.	Culls. M.	Puds.	No.
Sivencottah...	9	3	6	104	100 8 0	0 0	0	318 $\frac{3}{4}$
Tanjore Fort...	48	21	27	183	136 13 0	0 0	0	378
Carattettangoody...	22	1	21	136	126 7 7	4 2	0	332
Mariamman ...	4	1	3	111	167 4 0	5 0	0	162
Sakhavara Ambapoor...	6	0	6	73	93 3 0	0 0	0	179 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cusbah Dimmut ...	13	13	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total...	102	39	63	607	624 3 7	9 2	0	1,370 $\frac{1}{4}$
Dimmut Establishment...				36	157 3 8			
Total...	102	39	63	643	781 7 3	9 2	0	1,370 $\frac{1}{4}$

21. The superintendence of the concerns of the several Pagodas was formerly entrusted to a Manager at the Rajah's Palace, but in 1827, Serfojee Rajah committed it to the care of a new Office designated the Huzzoor Davasthanum Dimmut which he organized and located in the Fort. The cost of the Establishment was Rupees 171-7-9 per month and was to be defrayed out of a fund formed by a per centage charge on the average Revenue of some of the Pagodas.

22. It was the duty of this Office to receive periodical Accounts from the several Pagodas and Villages, to examine and check them, and to form the Annual Settlement of the landed endowments of the Institutions, in doing which they acted under the general control and direction of the Sirkele who took his orders direct from the Rajah.

23. Since the attachment of the Moccassah and other Villages, the Hoozoor Dimmut Cutcherries of the Rajah have been re-modelled so as to suit present circumstances and to render them more efficient.

24. It remains to consider the question of the future disposal of these Davasthanums with reference to the Policy of Government not to interfere in the management of the Native Religious Institutions of the Country, and it must also be seen how many of these Pagodas will have the means of maintaining themselves and how many must be abandoned from the circumstance of their not possessing any income of their own. The Pagodas are classified below according to the sources of income which they command:—

- I. Pagodas enjoying Tusdeeks or ready money payments from the Government Treasury.. 47
- II. Pagodas enjoying ditto ditto, and possessing landed Endowments... 22
- III. Pagodas enjoying income from land alone... 5
- IV. Pagodas depending chiefly on assignments from the Funds of other Pagodas... 5
- V. Pagodas enjoying money grants from the income of the Rajah's Moccassah Villages... 4
- VI. Pagodas deriving their income from the Rajah's Abkarry Revenue ... 2
- VII. Pagodas deriving income from Shop-tax ... 9
- VIII. Pagodas supported by grants from the Rajah's Treasury... 8
- IX. Pagodas without any fixed income... 3

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25. Thus, the Institutions comprehended under the first four Classes, possess permanent sources of income. These in the fifth are now supported by fixed money grants from the Revenue of the Rajah's Mocassah Villages, and I conceive that the transfer of these landed possessions will undoubtedly carry with it the obligation of continuing the payments now charged to their Revenues, whatever may be the ultimate determination of the Government in respect of the Mocassa Villages themselves.

26. The same remark applies to the next group in the list which have fixed Tutdeeks paid to them out of the Rajah's Abkarry Revenue, though, however, they do possess other means of income also.

27. The six Pagodas entered as possessing an income from Shop-tax, realize a daily or monthly contribution collected on all the cloth Merchant's Shops in and out of the Tanjore Fort, one of these Pagodas possesses some small landed property, while the rest are wholly dependent on the proceeds of the tax, but as the continuance of the collection of such an impost by Government would, I apprehend, be objectionable, the Pagodas may best be left hereafter to the voluntary offerings of the payers.

28. With one exception, the next eight Pagodas, some of which are situated out of the District, have incomes of their own, and the money payments now made from the Rajah's Treasury must be discontinued when the source from which they are defrayed is no longer available.

29. The last three Pagodas have never had any definite incomes assigned for their support, but have been dependent on the occasional bounty of the Rajah and on such shifts as could be made by his Servants to meet the cost of their maintenance from odds and ends of expenditure. They must, I conclude, now be left to themselves.

30. The Religious Institutions under notice which have come on our hands with the other possessions of the Raj, must, I submit, unavoidably remain under management by Government Officers until the final settlement of Tanjore Affairs, when arrangements may without much difficulty, I think, be made to transfer them to the superintendence of Trustees and thus disconnect the Government from all interference in their concerns. Among these Pagodas however, is one constructed and endowed at his own expense by the husband of a Sister of Serfojee Rajah. It remained under the management of the family of the founder till its attachment with the other Institutions in October last. Having thus been shown to be private property, I have released it from Zuff and restored it to the care of its owners.

No. 2. ORDER THEREON, No. 114; dated 11th July 1858.

The Commissioner of Tanjore submits information relative to the Pagodas and their resources under control and management by Seevaje, late Rajah of Tanjore.

2. After entering into the history of these Institutions, their endowments and the mode in which they have hitherto been administered, he concludes, para 30, "The Religious Institutions under notice which have come on our hands with the other possessions of Raj, must, I submit, unavoidably remain under management by Government Officers until the final settlement of Tanjore Affairs, when arrangements may without much difficulty, I think, be made to transfer them to the superintendence of Trustees and thus disconnect the Government from all interference in their concerns."

3. The Governor in Council observes that the Institutions in question cannot, in his view, be by any means regarded as forming a part of the private and personal property of the late Rajah, which is at present under litigation before the Privy Council, any more than the Choultries under the management of the same Prince which have recently been placed under charge of the Board of Revenue under Regulation VII of 1817. There appears to him no reason why the issue of the pending Appeal should be awaited, before disposing of these

Pagodas, in the same manner as other similar Institutions throughout the Country have been dealt with, viz., by making them over to Native Trustees, and it is on all accounts desirable that all connection between the Officers of Government and these Institutions should cease as soon as possible. Before however taking this step the Governor in Council resolves to refer to the Advocate General for his opinion whether it would be in any way an infringement of the Injunction issued by the Supreme Court in the Suit, Kamatchee Boyce versus the East India Company.

J. A. Wilson.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT.

Chief Secretary.

Political Department

N. 444

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation

Dated 14th July 1858

Read the following letter from the Commissioner of Tanjore.

Here enter 13th June 1857 to 1858

The Commissioner of Tanjore submits information relative to the Pagodas and their resources under control and management by Seevaje, late Rajah of Tanjore.

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General & for his opinion as
to whether it would be in any
way an infringement of
the Injunction in the said
~~Kamatchee Boye & others~~
issued by the Supreme
Court in the said
Kamatchee (27).
Boye & others
versus the East India

Company

To
The Hon. Secy. Solicitor-Genl. 15th

Wm. P. P.

From the Hon. Secy. Solicitor
3rd Feb. 1858.

Political & Social History of the 19th Century

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