Revenue Department

Minutes of Consultations

26th Jan 1858

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பாதுகாப்பு பிரிவு–1

செப்பனிடுபவர் பெயர்

செப்பனிடுவதற்காக எடுத்துக்
கொள்ளப்பட்ட நாள்

சரிபார்க்கும்
முதல் மு.நி.பா.எ.
கையொப்பம்

சரிபார்க்கும்
2–ம் மு.நி.பா.எ.
கையொப்பம்

ஆராய்ச்சி
உதவியாளர்
கையொப்பம்

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 26th January 1858.

No. 36. Read the following Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Political Department under date the 15th December 1857, No. 1046.

Read again letter from the Acting Commissioner of Tanjore. } (Here enter 2nd May 1857.)

Read also the following letters.

From the Honorable Company's Solicitor.

Advises that no notice be taken of Mr. J. B. Norton's letter to the Commissioner of Tanjore of the 11th Ultimo, and considers that the course pursued by the latter Officer with respect to certain lands was warranted by the opinion of the Advocate General of Bengal. } (Here enter 10th June 1857, No. 319.)

With reference to Extract Minutes of Consultation, No. 523, 4th July last, forwards Advocate General's opinion on the question of the management of Tanjore Rajah's Courts and bringing them under Regulation VII. of 1857. } (Here enter 30th November 1857, No. 697.)

From the Acting Resident at Tanjore.

Transmitting a Memorial from the Avoosahib on the subject of certain Villages and Endowments claimed by her as her private property. } (Here enter 27th August 1857, No. 451.)

In the foregoing letter, the Commissioner reports on the past and recent position of the Choultries managed by the late Rajah of Tanjore, and proposes certain modifications in the system, with other suggestions.

2. On the appointment of a Commissioner to Tanjore, the Government observe, the Lands, Rents and Produce which form the income of these Institutions, were attached, as a temporary arrangement, and a scrutiny was ordered of the Accounts for the last five years. On the receipt at Tanjore of the injunction of the Supreme Court, forbidding "all interference with the real and personal property of the late Rajah," the Collector withdrew his attachment. Orders, however, was subsequently passed by Government instructing the Collector to re-assume the management of these endowments, the alienation of which, it was observed, had been absolute and unqualified, and for the administration of which there were no existing means of supervision, no Dharmakurtahs having at any time been appointed.

24th December 1856.

Ext. Min. Con. 26th January 1857.

3. Such allowances in money and grain as were made by the late Sevajee Raja continueto be made, and the produce of the land and the money Rents heretofore set aside for these Choultries are still paid by the Collector. Mr. Phillips, however, has submitted this report in justice to the interests of Government in order that it may be determined whether the Charity allowances as paid by the late Rajah do not admit of some modifications.

Paras. 75-6.

4. As to the history of these Choultries, it appears that their endowments formed no exception to the Article of the Treaty of 1799 by which all Revenue control and management was vested in the Government of Fort Saint George. In the following year, however, it was, with reference to the Rajah's "ease and comfort" *inter alia* conceded, that, "the Palaces, Gardens and Chuttrums belonging to the "Rajah, and the Gardens and Bazaars appropriated to the Houses of Charity of the Queens "shall be held under their respective authorities." Under this concession, no interference has been exercised by the officers of Government. The Board of Revenue, in whom, since the enacting of Regulation VII. of 1817, the general superintendence of such Institutions is vested, have had the question before them, their latest order on the subject is dated the 18th April 1853. They are there found instructing the Collector, who had represented that any severe scrutiny would be highly distasteful to the Rajah, that his Highness' management should not be harshly interfered with, it being sufficient to see that the Funds generally were appropriated in a proper way.

Chief Secretary to the Resident, 5th July 1800.

5. As long as the Widows of Tooljajee were alive, H. H. Serfojee Rajah was careful to allow those Ladies to manage, according to the stipulation above mentioned, the "Charity Houses of the Queens" referred to. He then entered the endowments in the names of his own Wives. As to the *management*, however, this has always, since the death of Tooljajee's Widows, vested in the reigning Rajah. It was so during the reign of the late Seevajee, with one trifling exception in the case of his first Wife, now deceased, Sydemba Boyee. In a word, whatever Ladies' names were entered in the Dufters, they have not had "the least concern in the control of the "several Charities, in the distribution of the Funds belonging to them, or in the realisation of "the Revenue by which they were supported."

6. The number of the Choultries is (22) twenty-two in all. Of these 14 are termed "old," as having been founded anteriorly to the accession of Serfojee Rajah to the Musnud (A. D. 1798,) and 8 "new," as founded subsequently to that event. The founders in almost every case have been Females; Members of Rank in the Families of the late and former Rajahs.

The *object* of the Institutions is, to afford food and shelter to Pilgrims, and food to Beggars and other needy persons resident in the neighbourhood. In many cases the Funds have been misapplied, to the benefit of influential parties, not actually in want.

The *income* is derived partly from Land and Taxes on Bazaars, and partly from Allowances in money and grain.

7. To go into detail. Some (five) have no endowments of any kind, and are maintained by allotments of portions of the Revenue of others.

In Fusly 1265, the income from all sources came to Rs. 1,31,549-1-11. To this should be added Rs. 18,870-3; the interest annually due on certain deposits of money and loans made to the Rajahs by the founders, in some instances. This sum however has never been paid, so that with it and the amount of the *Mohturfa* of eight villages transferred to the Raja by the Government in the year 1822, and likewise never disbursed, the sum due by the late Raja to the Choultries, reaches, without interest, the sum of Rupees 4,09,262-2-0.

Para. 32.

8. The endowments in *land* comprised 140 entire villages or 'gardens,' as some are styled, and portions of 18 other villages, a kind of grant termed "Pogul." The area of the whole is 13,992 *valies*, a *valy* being equivalent to $6\frac{5}{10}$ acres; of this 5903 *valies* are *layac*, or fit for the plough, and the rest is (*a*) Perumboke (*b*) Anâdi Bunjer or 'Immemorial Waste' and (*c*) Enams.

In fusly 1265 the Jamabundy amounted to Rupees 99,125-13-4, a trifle under the average. Under the Raja's management, there existed a vicious custom of encumbering the accounts by debiting each year, to the Merasidars and Ryots sums which it was never intended to claim, and which should properly have been remited. These *old* arrears, at the close of fusly 1264, reached the sum of Rupees 2,08,958. The amount is irrecoverable, and the Commissioner has the sanction of Government for writing it off.

9. The expenditure of the Choultries for Fusly 1265, amounted to Rupees 1,49,857-5-9. This was met out of the current receipts, which came to Rupees 1,59,043-10-4. There is, besides, a balance of Rupees 1,07,123-1-7 in favor of the Institutions.

The expenditure above specified is nearly double the average of the last five years. This is accounted for by the fact that there have recently been paid off large arrears due for salaries and supplies. The poor too have had their wants better attended to, than under the old *regime*. The price of grain moreover has been high, and one or two merely nominal items credited to the Charities have been struck out.

10. The establishment is of two classes; the Dimmut or that at Head Quarters and that for the Out-stations. The former comprises 22 persons at a salary of Rupees 113-12-0 per mensem. The latter 798 at an expense in money, of 1776-10-0, and in Grain, Rupees 53-5-0. Over all is the Sirkele, who procured his orders direct from the Rajah.

10. Having stated these general details, the Commissioner proceeds to give his views as to the future disposal of these Institutions, basing his recommendations on a consideration of the means of each Choultry, the requirements of the vicinage and other such points.

Para. 46.

11. In Tanjore itself there are four Choultries. A. The "Ahalya," designed in honor of the Avoo Sahiba. The building is unfinished, and a garden set apart for its endowment is appropriated to a neighbouring Pagoda. There seems to be no objection to offering the Queen Dowager liberty to finish the building, and Her Highness would then manage the proceeds of any endowment she might make.

Para 47.

Should this offer be declined, an estimate of the cost of constructing the edifice should be procured from the Civil Engineer, and Government will consider the propriety of finishing it themselves. In any case, the garden must be taken from the Pagoda, to which it does not belong.

B. and C. The North and East "Strayaree" Choultries. Mr. Phillips' proposal to incorporate these two into one Choultry, the North is approved. The income proposed, Rupees 3,500 per annum, appears a fair calculation. It is understood that a fine square tank adjoining the North Stayaree Chuttrum is still unfinished, and that an estimate for its completion was called for from the District Engineer by Mr. H. Forbes. If not yet furnished it should be again called for and the work proceeded with out of the general Chuttrum Fund if its expense cannot be defrayed out of the income now appropriated to these two Strayaree Choultries.

D. The Santeanna Montapa Annadana Choultry. This is very conveniently situated for travellers and others. It is a mile and a half from the Town, on the South side of the Vermar. Means should be taken to restore the charity to proper objects; at present it is monopolised by the Brahmins of the neighbourhood. Mr. Phillips recommends that it be enlarged and endowed with Rupees 4,200 a year. This sum being assured, the land might be resumed. With regard to the proposed enlargement he should obtain an estimate, and if the cost would not be excessive it may be proceeded with as above ordered in the case of the Strayaree tank.

12. The Choultry at Sooroocottah was built by the late Rajah in honor of his concubines, and is termed 'Mangalavadam'. There is no endowment, but part of the revenues of the North 'Stayaree' Choultry at Tanjore is devoted to it. Mr. Phillips would make it over to the parties who as abovementioned are personally interested in it. They have means and will probably endow it handsomely. This is approved.

13. There are two Choultries at Poodoo Agraharum. As the town of Trivady, which has no lack of Choultries is close by, the Commissioner suggests it will not be necessary to maintain these two. The garden forming the endowment yields annually Rupees 229-9-4. The Commissioner would apply this to keeping the building in repair, and in maintaining a Calivendru or water Pandal during the hot months. This may be done or the building sold, under the provisions of Sections IV. and XV. of the Regulation.

14. The Ardangy Choultry in Puttoocottah. As this is no longer of material convenience to the public, it may be sold, or it might be given over to the person who claimed the wardenship in the time of the Rajah, provided he agrees to keep it in repair.

15. Deducting the five it is proposed to discontinue, there are 13 which require no direct official aid. The three others and the Mooctumpapoor Charity require separate notice.

Mooctumpa was a favorite concubine of Rajah Serfojee. In her honor the Rajah founded this Charity, which in 1827, at the earnest request of the Rajah, was endowed by the Government with the *beriz* of 4 villages, or Rs. 6,293-7-2 per annum. To this should be added the interest of a large sum which the Concubine bequeathed to the King for the purposes of the Charity. This interest however has never been paid. The Government concur with the Commissioner that there is no necessity for their adding any thing to the resources of this large Charity. The Rajah, it is observed, himself gave 15 villages.

16. The Rajacumara Boyee Choultry has a land endowment of Rs. 636-7-4, and the sum deposited with the Rajah by the Boyee was 33,000 Rs. The Government approve of a sum equivalent to 5 per Cent. on that amount, or Rs. 1,650, being disbursed to this Choultry.

17. This sum *plus* the sums sanctioned for two of the Choultries in Tanjore itself, gives a total of Rs. 9,350 to be borne annually by the State, in lieu of the ready money and grain heretofore (though very irregularly) disbursed by the Rajah. From the Table appended to the report it appears that the total value of the endowments will hereafter stand at Rupees 1,09,696-7-6 per annum.

18. The Commissioner calls attention, to a system allowed by the Rajah, under the name of *Vasacut*. This consisted in permitting various parties to borrow sums from the balances at the credit of the Choultries. The outstanding amount of these Loans is no less than Rs. 54,807-15-9. There are also arrears of pay to the Establishment of Rupees 66,910-4-7. The Governor in Council agrees with the Commissioner, that, with reference to these two items, it will be quite sufficient if his superintendence begins from the date of the charities falling into his hands.

19. The Commissioner, (para. 73,) proposes keeping on as a "Choultry and Devastanum Cutcherry" certain of the persons who were employed in the time of the late Rajah in his Chuttrum and Devastanum Dimmut, the aggregate amount of their salaries not being in excess of the sum of Rupees 240 per mensem, or Rupees 3-15-8 below the sum hitherto paid on that account. This is clearly inadequate for any other than a temporary arrangement. The Government have referred to the Honorable Company's Solicitor in respect to the future management of these Institutions, and that Officer has laid before them the opinion given on the subject by the Advocate General. Mr. T. Sydney Smyth deems it "equally competent to the Government to direct that these Charities shall be managed in future by the Local Officer, whether styled Collector or Commissioner, with such establishment as Government may authorize, or to order the Board of Revenue to assume the superintendence of them and to manage them under the provisions of Act VII. of 1817. The question appears to him one of convenience and expediency rather than of law, the latter course would perhaps be found the most convenient and best calculated to assure uniformity, and would most clearly mark the intention of Government to regard and maintain them as public charitable endowments." Mr. Smyth considers the provisions of Regulation VII. of 1817, sufficiently large to apply to the present case.

Chuttrums.....	86	12	0
Devastonum.....	157	3	8
	243	15	8

20. Under this opinion the Government decidedly think that the Regulation in question should at once be acted on as regards these charities, and they resolve to direct the Board of Revenue immediately to assume charge of them and to administer them through the Collector as their Local Agent. The Board, to whom these orders will be communicated through the Revenue Department, will report to Government through that Department, the arrangements which they may make and establishments which they may sanction for the purpose.

21. The Commissioner will inform Avoo Sahibah, in reply to her memorial of the 26th August last, that the Choultries to which it relates were public charitable Institutions which were under the superintendence of the late Rajah of Tanjore during his life: on his death they have come under charge of Government by whom they have been made over, together with their endowments, to the Board on Revenue to be managed by that body under the provisions of Regulation VII. of 1817. Against any orders passed by the Board she can, if she sees fit, proceed by Civil Suit under Section XIV. of the same Regulation.

(True Extract and Copy.)

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary

No. 37. ORDER THEREON, No. 94; dated 23d January 1858.

Ordered to be communicated to the Board of Revenue for their guidance.

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

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Revenue 1858 Dep^t

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