

Revenue Department

No 403.

Dated 25th March 1859.

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 1st April 1859.

No. 30. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 25th February 1859, No. 706.

Read again letter from Collector of Tanjore, dated 17th August 1858, No. 168.

(In Con. 18th September 1858, No. 3796.)

Read also letter from same Officer, dated 12th November 1858, No. 248.

(In Con. 28th December 1858, No. 5159.)

To Govt. 27th July 1854.

From do. 10th Aug. in Con. 7th Sep. 1854, No. 936, R. D.

Pro. to Govt. 6th July 1857.

From Govt. 18th in Con. 28th July 1857, No. 718, R. D.

Resolved that the above letter be submitted for the orders of Government with reference to the correspondence noted in the margin.

2. In 1854, the late Collector of Tanjore, Mr. Forbes, submitted a plan for the erection of a Choultry at Puttoocottah, for which he proposed to provide funds by the transfer of the Endowment of the Choultry at Paroovalendan which he stated to have fallen into disuse, as the road on which it is situated has been abandoned in favor of the more direct line through Puttoocottah.

3. This Endowment consisted of Villages grain-rented, and having a standard gross produce of 11,636 Cullums which Mr. Forbes, thought could under proper management be raised to 20,000 Cullums, the estimate for the year in which he wrote being 16,208 Cullums.

4. The Government Melvarum was fixed at 50 per cent. of the Standard gross produce, and thus amounted to 5,644 Cullums, convertible into money at the current rates, while of the remaining 50 per cent. 40 per cent. was paid as Cudivarum to the cultivating Tenants, and 10 per cent. remained as the Meerassidar's share.

5. Some misconception of the facts of the case seems to have existed in Mr. Forbes' mind when he recommended that this Endowment should be escheated and its proceeds allowed to accumulate till a sufficient sum had been obtained for the erection of another Choultry elsewhere, to which the Endowment should then be transferred, which arrangement was sanctioned by Government.

6. It appears from Mr. Phillip's reports now submitted that the Villages in question were the private property of the founder of the Choultry, and that after the Charity was established, he obtained from the Government of the day a remission of some portion of the State demand, and held them thence forward on Rocca-goottah tenure at a favorable rate.

7. The Choultry which is now in the possession of the founder's descendants is stated to be a well built edifice, and in thorough repair, but although necessarily some of the revenues of the family Estate must have been devoted to its maintenance, it does not appear that any formal assignment of the Meerassivarum of the villages in question was ever made as an Endowment, and the Board therefore agree in opinion with the late Collector that should Government consider the Choultry to be no longer of such benefit to the Community as to entitle it to a remission of part of the State demand, the proper course would be to reimpose the full demand, but not to sequester the Villages.

8. The Collector's letter however seems to shew that the rate of Melvarum formerly received was as high an Assessment as the Villages can well bear, and the result of their retention under Amany goes to shew that their lands are not of a superior description.

9. The Choultry on whose account the favorable rent was fixed, has not been neglected by the Proprietors nor is it through any fault of theirs that it has become less use to the public than formerly, and under all the circumstances of the case the Board beg to recommend that the Government sequestration be removed and the villages restored on their original tenure to the Proprietors of the Choultry.

10. The result of the four years' management by the Government Officers from Fusly 1264, to 1267, has been that instead of the Standard amount of grain-rent, viz., 5,644 Cullums, the receipts including even the Meerassivarum had averaged no more than Cullums 3,984, and the average of the money commutation was only Rupees 2,924, whereas the Jummabundy of the

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year preceding sequestration was Rupees 4,747, while the actual collections had reached Rupees 3,056, and arrangements had been made for liquidating the balance.

11. The net receipts of these four years aggregated Rupees 10,649, while under the old system of a Standard grain-rent they would have reached Rupees 18,975 and thus there was a positive loss to Government of Rupees 8,326, even though the extreme measure of appropriating the Meerassivaram was adopted.

12. Supposing that this loss is to be considered in the light of an arrear—which under the circumstances of the case the Board do not think it can properly be—then in the event of Government acceding to the Board's recommendation this amount must in fairness be remitted altogether, and regard being had to the somewhat scant consideration with which the Proprietors have been treated, the Board would beg leave also to recommend that the arrear of Rupees 1,690, outstanding for Fusly 1263, at the time the villages were sequestered may as an act of grace be remitted.

13. The Meerassivaram collected by Government during the four years of Amany management aggregated Rupees 1,777, and deducting the Sibundy charges, the net receipts from this source were Rupees 930, to which extent at least the Proprietors suffered a loss of income and this amount therefore may fairly be set off against the old arrear, which would leave the sum to be remitted comparatively small.

14. The Board's present proposal necessarily nullifies that of Mr. Forbes for providing for the erection of a Choultry at Puttoocottah which in any case apparently must have failed of success.

15. It will be for Government to determine whether the necessary funds for that scheme shall be provided by the State.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Sub-Secretary.*

No. 31. ORDER THEREON, No. 403; dated 25th March 1859.

In 1854 the Collector of Tanjore reported that a certain choultry at *Peruvalandan* in his district had fallen into disuse, and he suggested that the large endowment of the institution should be sequestrated, and the proceeds applied to the erection of another Choultry at *Pattukottai*. This course was sanctioned in Extract Minutes of Consultation 10th August 1854, No. 936, Revenue Department. In their Proceedings of 6th July 1857, No. 2292, the Board reported that no surplus funds had accumulated from the resumed endowment, but requested the Acting Collector to communicate to them the issue of a further enquiry which he proposed making. In their Proceedings above recorded the Board furnish full information in the matter.

2. It appears that the late Collector's notion that the endowment of the Choultry was very extensive, was a misconception. The lands forming what has been hitherto considered as this endowment are in extent about two hundred *Velis*, or a thousand cawnies. They are styled the private property of the founder, but it has not been expressly stated in whose name the Mirasi is at present registered. From the papers, however, the Government gather that the descendants of the founder, the present proprietors of the Choultry, own the Mirasi-varam of the land. At a period previous to the assumption of Tanjore by the British, the founder of the Choultry, built with a design of affording shelter to pilgrims passing to and from Rameshwaram, obtained from the ruling power an abatement of the Government demand, professedly in favor of the institution. This grant was to all intents and purposes a service Inam. When the choultry ceased to be used for the purpose for which it was built, the Manyam became ipso facto resumable. That the Choultry did so fall into disuse, was reported by Mr. Forbes in 1854; the principal cause being, as stated, the opening of a new and shorter route to Rameshwaram. The order of Government directing the resumption of the Manyam was therefore correct. The Governor in Council now proceeds to consider what it was that the order should have effected.

Note.—The exact date should have been given.

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3. As above stated the so called endowment consists of 200 *Velis*. The Government share was fixed at 50 per cent. of the gross produce after deducting *Swatantrams*. The *Purakadivaram* is no less than 40 per cent., and the *Mirasivaram* is thus only 10 per cent. The cultivator's share; or *Purakadivaram*, could not in any way be affected by the resumption; the *Mirasivaram* likewise, could not be interfered with. All that the Government had power to do was to re-impose the full normal assessment of the land. But it appears from the Board's Proceedings that since the order of 1854 to "resume" the endowment, even the *Mirasivaram* has been carried to the credit of the Government; and in spite of this extreme measure the net receipts during the four years which have since elapsed have been less than the amount of the fixed grain-rent by Rupees 8,326.

4. It is unnecessary now to enter into the causes of this decrease; the measure suggested by the Collector of assessing the V. 200, M. 7 according to the Olungu average of the adjacent villages may be adopted.

5. The Governor in Council agrees with the Board that the sum of Rupees 8,326 noticed in para. 11 of their Proceedings cannot be regarded as an arrear; and in accordance with their recommendation, he resolves to remit the arrear existing at the time of resumption, being Rupees 1,690.

6. The Governor in Council is unable to devote any portion of the public funds to the erection of a Chuttrum at Poodocottah.

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

No 403.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 25th March, 1859.

Read the following
Extract from the Proceedings
of the Board of Revenue.

Here enter 25th February 1859 No 61

In 1854, the Collector
of Tanjore reported that a certain
Choultry at Peruvalandam in
his District had fallen into
disuse and he suggested that the
large Endowment of the institution
should be sequestrated, and the
proceeds applied to the erection of
another Choultry at Pattukottai.
This course was sanctioned in
Extract Minutes of Consultation 10th
August 1854 No 936 Rev. Dep^t.
In their proceedings of 6th July
1854 No 2292, the Board reported
that

H
G

R. D.

that no surplus funds had accumulated from the resumed endowment, but requested the Acting Collector to communicate to them the issue of a further enquiry which he proposed making. In their Proceedings above recorded the Board furnish full information in the matter.

2 It appears that the late Collector's notion that the endowment of the Choultry was very extensive, was a misconception. The lands forming what has been hitherto considered as this endowment are in extent about two hundred velis or a thousand Cannies. They are styled the private property of the founder, but it has not been expressly stated in whose name the Mirasi is at present registered. From the papers however, the Govt.

Note. The exact date should have been given

Government gather that the descendants of the founder, the present proprietors of the Choultry, own the Mirasi-varam of the Land. At a period previous to the assumption of Tanjore by the British, the founder of the Choultry, built with a design of affording shelter to pilgrims passing to and from Rameshwaram, obtained from the ruling power an abatement of the Government demand, professedly in favor of the institution. This grant was to all intents and purposes a Service Inam. When the Choultry ceased to be used for the purpose for which it was built, the Inam became ipso facto resumable. That the Choultry did so fall into disuse, was reported by Mr. Forbes in 1854; the principal cause being

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3 As above stated the
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The Purakudivaram is now left
than 40 per cent and the
Mirasivaram is thus only
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share or Purakudivaram could
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by the resumption; the
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that the Government had power
to do was to reimpose the full
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But it appears from the Boards'
proceedings that since the order
of 1854, to "resume" the endow-
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has been carried to the credit
of the Government; and in
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the net receipts during the
four years which have since
elapsed have been less than
the amount of the fixed
grain rent by Rupees 8326.

as the lands have failed
to pay, under the free
2 feet 10 inches rate
it is difficult to un-
derstand a key an-
nual rate should be
ascertained

4 It is unnecessary
now to enter into the causes of
this decrease; the measure
suggested by the Collr. of assessing
the 200 ^{7.} ^{m.} according to the average
average of the adjacent villages
may be adopted.

5 The Governor in Council
agrees

agrees with the Board that the
sum of Rupees 8,326 cannot
be regarded as an arrear; and
in accordance with their recom-
mendation he resolves to
remit the ~~arrear~~ existing
at the time of resumption
being Rupees 1690;

6. The Governor in
Council is unable to devote
any portion of the public
funds to the erection of
a Chattrum ^{at} Poodoocottah

[Signature]

3 Copies to the B Co of Rev. District
1 — " — " Accountant General
1 — " — " Civil Surgeon

[Faint handwritten notes on a separate sheet, partially obscured by tape]
Para 12
Para 15
[Signature]

Revenue 1859 Depar'tt.
D^o to Cons. 1st April.

N^o 403.

15.6
21.7.57
11.2
13.8.54

Contract Minis of Cons.
D^y 25th March/59.

Permitting Rs. 1690 the
arrears existing at the time of
resumption of the Villages which
formed the endowment of the
Choultry at Peruvalandam
and observing that no portion
of the public funds will be
devoted to the erection of a
Choultry at Poodocottah.

N^o 30451-

12th March 1860