

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 626	Press
4244	~~Mis.~~
Dated 24-4-1860.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
for the month of April 1860.*

No. 43. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Political Department, dated 13th April 1860, No. 217 :—

*Passing orders respecting certain allowances
hitherto disbursed monthly by the Sirkele of the
late Rajah of Tanjore for religious purposes.* } (Vide Political Proceedings from 11th to
20th April 1860, Nos. 15-16.)

No. 44. ORDER THEREON, 24th April 1860, No. 626.

Orderd to be communicated to the Board of Revenue for information.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Deputy Secretary to Government.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from H. D. PHILLIPS, Esq., Commissioner of Tanjore, to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 22nd March 1860, No. 921.

Adverting to the approach of the period when it may be possible entirely to dispense with the services of the Sirkele, or restrict them to matters which involve only the immediate interests of the female inmates of the Palace at Tanjore, I deem it proper to solicit orders in respect of certain allowances hitherto paid monthly by the Sirkele for the time being.

2. MISSION, 30 Rupees.—Of these, the first is a sum of Rupees 30-0-0 regularly disbursed every month to the Head of the Protestant Mission at Tanjore, now represented by the Reverend Mr. Cammerer.

3. The grant of this allowance dates so far back as 1814. It was first made by Rajah Sarbhoji and is understood to have been assigned as compensation for the ground or other rent yielded by certain Bazars in the small Fort at Tanjore of which Sarbhoji desired and effected the removal. The sum originally given was in chuckrums and equalled Rupees 33½. Its amount was however, reduced to Rupees 30 by Rajah Seevajee in 1843 and it has since stood at that figure, being periodically disbursed by the Sirkele and, since the Raja's demise, being included in the monthly indent as an item of ordinary expenditure. The receipts granted by the Mission show that it is paid to them as compensation of the character above stated; but, adverting to the terms of intimacy and warm friendship which prevailed between Sarbhoji Raja and the elders of this Mission, it is extremely probable that ground rents of little real value were made the medium of an unostentatious monthly donation for the permanent support of the Mission. Whether or not, as Sarbhoji's successor, who did not regard the members of the Missionary establishment in the same light as his father, continued to them the allowance, and it has now been paid for nearly 50 years, it seems to me doubtful whether it can justly be stopped. I find no protest was made in 1843 against its reduction from Rupees 33½ to Rupees 30, but that point of weakness excepted, any claim the Mission might found on established usage could scarcely be resisted with success.

4. Should the Government be of opinion that the allowance must continue, it will probably occur to them that it should be sanctioned as an addition to the several sums now periodically drawn by the Mission from the Treasury of the Collector.

5. VEERASIMHA SEEVAINDRASWAMY PAGODA.—This Pagoda has drawn in a similar manner, through the Sirkele's office, an allowance of 50 Rupees monthly, since shortly after the death of the Raja in October 1855. Prior to this event, the allowance granted had been Rupees 200 per mensem. The reduction was made by the officers of the Durbar in order that this Pagoda might not be better off than other institutions of the same class. It is understood to have been the Pagoda elect of the late Raja and was especially favored by him in all respects. Being near, but outside, the gate of the Palace, it was his frequent place of resort for Pooja and ordinary or special religious exercises and his contributions for its support were at all times liberal. There seems however, not to have been any fixed amount of allowance which the institution can now point to and claim by right. The Raja gave according to the feeling of the hour and sent to it valuable jewels with which the idols were to be decked out; but, at varying periods, he was careful in causing these to be returned to the jewel room of the palace and none have remained in the hands of the Pagoda servants.

6. When in 1842 the area of his jurisdiction was contracted and he was permitted to exercise his independent privileges over only that small space which remained to him at the date of his demise, he collected together from the area so lost to him, a number of idols of kinds and deposited them in a Swamy house of this Pagoda. Before these and a few others previously there, daily pooja is now performed by one part or the other of a set of dancing girls who enjoy

hereditarily the right of thus officiating and they are assisted by some of the ordinary worshippers of the Pagoda.

7. Their remuneration is derived as well from the sum of 50 Rupees before mentioned, as from an allowance, as wages, to 22 servants, amounting to Rupees 69 per mensem, which has also been usually paid by the Sirkele. The total monthly outlay on account of this institution has, thus, been Rupees 119 since the death of the Raja up to the present time. As an instance, however, of the fluctuating character of the income it has enjoyed, I would mention that in a Purwangee, or "Budget" as it must here be termed, which was prepared by the Durbar Accountants in June 1846, the sum estimated for the expenses of the year of this Pagoda, is set down at Rupees 11,400-0-0. It has a high tower of the usual kind over its single entrance, in the rear of which is a large area surrounded by a high wall, but the buildings within the enclosure are insignificant and in bad repair. During the reign of the late Raja's predecessor, so far from its being recognized as a place of superior sanctity, it was used as a powder manufactory although in the heart of the town of Tanjore.

8. Besides the 50 Rupees and the 69 Rupees before mentioned, the institution possesses some Sarva Manium and Turaff lands of which the annual yield in the last five years on an average, is collums 1036. But this quantity would be reduced by the discharge of the usual fees of kinds, to 688 collums, the value of which, at the rate now prevailing, would be Rupees 516, to which should be added 8 Rupees the yearly amount of certain ground rent to which the Pagoda is entitled. The income of the institution, as it has hitherto stood, may thus be estimated as Rupees 1952 a year; and one of the objects of my present address is to ascertain whether the Government desire to continue this allowance.

9. FOUR SMALL PAGODAS.—There are four other small unimportant Pagodas within the town walls, to which fixed monthly allowances were assigned. These were included in the indent for the expenses of the Saraswati Mahal or Hall of learning (Library) and, similarly with the two allowances before mentioned, were paid by the Sirkele. I enter below the names of the Pagodas and the sums assigned to them.

Camésvara.....	Rupees	3-12-0
Padmavati.....	,,	3-12-0
Amanavallabha.....	,,	2- 8-0
Késavastutasweraswamy.....	,,	4- 8-0
		14- 8-0.

In addition to these trifling ready money allowances, it had been usual in the time of the Raja, to make over 15 measures of rice to each Pagoda. But this liberality cost the Raja nothing, as the rice was drawn from the grain income of the charity* houses which, as the Government will recollect, were under the Raja's own management and control. On the choultries being transferred to me, under Regulation VII of 1817, I discontinued the grain contribution from the choultry source, but directed the Sirkele to keep it up from the grain supplies of which he had the command for Palace purposes.

10. A Bramin resides in each of the Pagodas, to whom is paid the allowance which I have above entered. Three were built, as I understand, and established by wives of the late Rajas in whose honor they are named. The fourth was built by one Sadasiva Row a favorite of Raja Secvaje, and during the period of the former's incumbency was richly endowed. Like the other three, however, it is a trumpery construction. Neither of the four deserves the designation of Pagoda which custom has applied to them.

11. The money allowances drawn by the three first have been regarded as the interest payable on a principal sum presented to the Pagodas by the late Raja and so credited in his

accounts; but which, by a financial fiction by no means uncommon under that Prince, was never really disbursed for the object pretended.

12. RAJAS' TOMBS.—For the support of a worshipper at the burning ground of the late Rajas and some of their wives and concubines, a monthly allowance of Rupees 22 has been made, together with a monthly donation of 120 measures of rice.

13. Certain Swamy* houses have been built over the precise spots where the corpses underwent cremation and it is to the idols placed in these that pooja is offered. *Trifling Pagodas. The privilege of thus worshipping is regarded as hereditary in the family of a Bramin who provides for the required service, but does not himself perform it. Some of the Swamy houses are in good order, but nothing has, as yet, been constructed over the spot where the last Raja was burnt.

14. PAGODA INSIDE THE PALACE.—Within the several buildings which form the Palace apartments, is a place of worship to which access may be had by females who do not appear in public. It is lined with planks perforated so that women behind them may see the worshippers without themselves being observed. It is not deserving of the name of Pagoda, but still is so called. The establishment of servants allowed for it has hitherto cost Rupees 65½ per mensem and on all religious and festive occasions, special supplies of articles of kinds were made for the special pooja necessary, in addition to the ordinary supply of the day.

15. Such supplies came from the Store rooms under charge of the Sirkele and he also indented for and paid the wages of the different poojaries and other servants of the establishment.

16. The cost of the allowances in kind has been variable and, in my opinion, far beyond the necessities of the pooja, the more especially as the Avoo Sahiba, the leading authority in these matters, generally indulges in private pooja in her own apartments. Left to that lady or to any one of the leading members of the Palace family, the pooja charges would be vastly below what appears to have been disbursed under this head. For the future, therefore, it seems to me that its superintendence should remain with the senior lady of the late Raja's widows, and I would make payable to her any sum which, on this account, it may be determined to allow. The cost of the pooja may, I consider, be fairly estimated at 50 Rupees a month.

17. MOHURRUM FESTIVAL.—Connected with expenditure on account of religion, there is still one item which I desire to bring to notice. It was the practice of both the late Rajas to give sums of money to the Mohamedans of Tanjore on the occasion of the Mohurum festival. There is no principal mosque in the town, nor, indeed, any building that can properly be styled a mosque in the ordinary acceptance of the term. But there are several Ashoorkhanas of the least important kind I have ever yet seen. Such as they are, during the Mohurum the usual symbols were ranged in order and exhibited in them to the passers by and what with trifling charitable contributions and the donations from the Palace in money and in kind, the festival was celebrated.

18. Opposite the private apartments of the Palace was the main exhibition of the prescribed symbols, and for its use, the Raja caused many costly ornaments of gold and silver to be made, all which I have placed with the other valuable articles in the Dastan Mahal. Other ornaments of the same kind, but of little value, appear to have been made over to certain of his relatives residing near the Ashoorkhanas, whose duty it was to preserve them and cause their periodical exhibition. Some of these are still in the hands of the original depositaries and are used as originally intended. But such money allowance as the Raja made will now cease if the Government are of opinion that it cannot be continued.

19. In the year of the Raja's death, the disbursements for the Mohurum festival are entered in the accounts at Rupees 639-14-0; but in neither of the two following years did they exceed Rupees 131-6-0. The reduction thus effected was common to all the Palace expenditure and was the result of endeavour on the part of the Durbar Officers to place matters on a more economical footing. But whatever may have been the scale of outlay when the Raja was alive, it is quite clear that no fixed rule was observed and that his own feeling of the moment dictated the amount.

20. It may perhaps be good policy, and I think it will be just, to continue some small amount for the festival, and I would suggest that Rupees 150 be the sum allowed. Should this

<i>Veerasimha Seevaindra Swamy Pagoda, Rupees.....</i>	1,952	proposal be approved and the Go-
<i>4 Small Pagodas.</i>	174	vernment determine to make provi-
<i>Rajas' Tombs.</i>	264	sion for the items of expenditure now
<i>Pagoda inside the Palace.</i>	600	under report, their sum total (the
<i>Moharum Festival... ..</i>	150	Mission allowance excepted) will be
		Rupees 3,140-0-0 a year, as shewn
		marginally.

21. I would not, however, suggest that this sum be met by a money grant to be periodically doled out by the Collector. As the Government are aware, certain of the Raja's Meerassy villages have become an escheat under the Order of the 5th December last, No. 705, and are now in the hands of the revenue authorities. It appears to me that it is advisable to set apart such portion of any one of those villages as will yield an annual income of Rupees 3,140 and make it over to the senior member of the Palace family to be managed by him or her in such a manner as will best secure the interests of the institutions represented and enable the managing party to meet the several demands for which the Sirkele has hitherto provided funds. If this arrangement be made, much inconvenience and official detail will be obviated and there will be an entire disconnection between the religious observances of the people and the Officers of the Government.

ORDER THEREON, 13th April 1860, No. 217.

In the foregoing letter the Commissioner solicits the orders of Government in respect to certain allowances hitherto disbursed montly by the Sirkele of the late Raja of Tanjore for religious purposes.

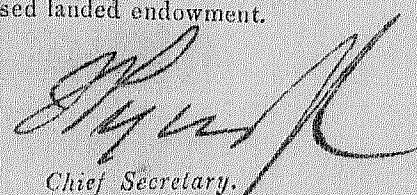
2. The first item is a monthly sum of thirty Rupees paid to the Head of the Protestant Mission at Tanjore. The grant dates as far back as 1814 and was first made by Raja Sarabhoji as compensation for the rent yielded by certain Bazars in the small Fort at Tanjore, the removal of which was effected by him. The allowance having now been paid for nearly half a century, the Government are of opinion that it must continue, and accordingly sanction its disbursement as an addition to the other sums periodically drawn by the Mission from the Collector's Treasury.

3. The other five items are fully treated of in paragraph 5 to the end of letter, and the provision recommended by the Commissioner for the expenditure on account of them amounts in the aggregate to Rupees 3,140 per annum, viz :

<i>Virasimha Sivendra Swami Pagoda.</i>	Rupees 1,952
<i>4 Small Pagodas.</i>	174
<i>Rajas' Tombs.</i>	264
<i>Pagoda inside the Palace....</i>	600
<i>Moharum Festival... ..</i>	150

The Government approve of the several grants, and also of the Commissioner's proposal for setting apart such portion of one of the Raja's Mīrāsī villages which have escheated, as will yield an annual income of Rupees 3,140, and making it over to the senior member of the Palace family, to be managed in such a manner as will best secure the interests of the institutions. They accordingly sanction this arrangement and direct that it be carried out. The Commissioner will report who is the senior member to whom he would make over the proposed lauded endowment.

(True Extract.)


Chief Secretary.

To the Commissioner at Tanjore.
" Collector and Government Agent at Tanjore.
" Revenue Department.
" Accountant General.
" Civil Auditor.

Exd F. Cartledge.

copy for report

Q. 31st Dec 1879-80

18/12/15

Proc of Court in the
Political Dept 1878
July to Oct 1878

Ms 3544

Revenue 1860 Dist
Proc of Court 20 April -
Ms 829

Providence of the
Produce Court in the
Political Dept
Dist 134
Revenue 212 of 1878

1879
of King's Court in respect
of certain allowances
with the discharge
of the duty of the
Revenue for various
purposes.

1879-80 April 1
with one quarter

Ms 26

Revised to

revised to the 13th

Revenue for various purposes

Revenue

Proc of Court
21 April 1863

to 13th April 1879
with one quarter