M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-21

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 964 Press ~~Mis.~~

121-122

Dated 11-6- 1860.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
11th June 1860.

No. 121. Read the following letter from W. KNOX, Esq., Collector of Krishna District, to D. F. CARMICHAEL, Esq., Private Secretary to the Honorable the Governor, Fort Saint George, dated Masulipatam, 3rd May 1860, No. 8 :—

1. I have the honor to return herewith the Petition addressed to His Excellency by the Dévarakotta Zamíndár, which was referred to me for report with your demi-official letter of 25th November last.

2. Their first Sanad appears to have been granted to the Dévarakotta family in 1640 by Abdul Kulutsha, but they were not in constant possession of the Estate under subsequent Rulers. An Istimrár Sanad was granted in Fasli 1212 to Ankinéd, the grand-father of the present Zamíndár. The items which formed the assets upon which the permanent Peshkash was then fixed, are as follows :—

Items.	Average collections from 1776 to 1784 as entered in the Settlement accounts.		
	R.	A.	P.
1. Paddy sundry grains and Jonnala.....	1,25,209	8	8½
2. Tax on measurement ground.....	3,468	4	0
3. Tax on Artificers.....	1,552	2	10½
4. Tax on Ináms.....	918	8	10
5. Desmuk Rusúms or Darbar charges.....	19,044	9	1
6. Shroff Rusúms.....	3,008	11	8
7. Sundry items.....	834	6	0
Total per annum.....	1,54,036	3	2
One-third to Zamíndár..	51,345	0	0
Permanent Peshkash.....	1,02,690	0	0

leaving the fractional part.

3. There is nothing on the record to establish the Memorialist's assertion that Déspondayas gave in false accounts, enhancing the resources of the Estate.

4. The Petitioner alludes in the accompanying Petition to some remissions having been made in the average revenue during the permanent Settlement in the case of other Zamíndáris. It is true Rupees 19,300 and odd was deducted from the assets* of the Nújid Estate, but it was on account of village charges ("gramakhurch") in which the Zamíndár had no share. Some deduction was also made in the Peshkash of the Munagal and Lingagiri Estates; but it was expressly stated that this was done as compensation for the inroads of Banditti from the Nizam's territories, which impoverish the country and compelled the Zamíndár to entertain a large force for its protection. In the assets of Dévarakotta, no village charges were included, and there was nothing so peculiar here as to render any remissions of the kind necessary.

* *Vide enclosure, No.* 1.

5. I do not find any items remitted in the case of other Zamíndáris which were not under similar circumstances deducted from the assets of the Dévarakotta Estate.

6. From the accompanying Statement it will be observed that the Peshkash on the several Zamíndáris and Sub-Divisions fixed by the Special Committee in Fasli 1212, was either equal to, greater or smaller than, the calculations of the Circuit Committee. The reason was that the Special Committee fixed the Peshkash with reference to the average collections of Faslis 1206 to 1210, which differed from the average of the years taken by the Circuit Committee, appointed 20 years before the Special Committee. The Dévarakotta Estate, it will be observed, is rated at the same figure by both Committees.

7. The Darbar charges and Shroff Rusúms referred to by the Memorialist were denounced as arbitrary and oppressive by the former Revenue authorities. The former, which was the principal of the two and of all other items except land Revenue, was collected at 1½ Rupee per candi on the gross produce of all the wet grain, and 2 Rupees per candi on the gross produce of Jonnala and other dry grains. The collection of this, as well as the Shroff Rusúms, (which will be explained more fully hereafter) was discontinued in Fasli 1230 by Mr. Russell,

the then Collector, c[illegible]g the management of the Estate by Government, under the orders of the Board. In 1830, the minority of the Zamíndár Durgá Prasáda Náyudu ceased. Previously to the Estate being made over to him, the mothers and guardians of the minor wanted to re-impose the Darbar charges and Shroff Rusúms on the ground of their having formed part of the assets. The then Collector, Mr. Dent, attempted to obtain the consent of the Raiyats to the re-imposition of the said items, but he was unsuccessful, and the zealous endeavours of his successors to consolidate them with the demand according to the Board's Orders, dated 20th October 1831, totally failed.

8. The Estate was made over to Durgá Prasáda Náyudu in October 1831, on certain conditions for the payment of the arrears and the current Peshkash, &c.; but he fell into arrears, and the Estate was again attached on the 8th May 1832. He died on the 3rd June 1834, and was succeeded by an adopted son, the present Zamíndár, who was then a minor. Owing to a succession of unfavorable seasons, the arrears of Peshkash and the bonded debt accumulated to Rupees 3,17,688-7-5, upon the reports of the Collectors that the cause which gave rise to this heavy balance against the Estate was the highness of Peshkash, the Board, from actual calculation, admitted that the Estate had not yielded of late years what was expected upon at the time of the permanent Settlement.

	Rs.
The gross value of the Estate according to Circuit Committee accounts.....	1,54,036
Deduct ⅓ for the Zamíndár.....	51,346
Peshkash...	1,02,690

But the actual profits of the Zamíndár were much smaller, as follows:—

	Rs.
42 years. Collections from Fasli 1210 to 1251 was.....	52,04,104
Deduct Peshkash at 1,02,690 per annum.....	43,12,980
Surplus...	8,91,124
or on average profit to the Zamíndár..... instead of the sum of Rupees 51,346 in question.	21,217
For the first 21 years the average profits per annum amounted to.....	37,046
The average of the second 21 years amounted to...	5,387

In the last years they were worse still, from Fasli 1242 to 1251 there was a deficit of Rupees 10,716 a year. It appearing, therefore, that the Estate had not for a continuous period yielded what was expected by the Committee, and that a corresponding reduction from the Peshkash on account of the discontinuation of the Collection of the said two items of Darbar expenses and Shroff Rusúms was just and equitable, Mr. Grant, the then Collector, recommended that the sum of Rupees 14,702-3-2 per annum, being ⅔rds of the total of the said two items, should be struck out from the permanent assets.

To Board, dated 3rd July 1838, *No.* 65.

9. The Board only took up the important item of Darbar expenses, the which materially tended to cause the defalcation in the collections. The matter at last went up, to Supreme Government, who decided that the compensation on account of the said item, should not be as recommended by the Board and Government, on the proportion of ⅔rds, but on the entire value of that source of the Zamíndár's Revenue, less 10 per cent., being the estimated cost of collecting it, and that the annual compensation should be raised from 12,696 to Rupees 17,140. The latter sum was accordingly deducted from the Peshkash, *i. e.*, 1,02,690-17—140=85,550, which is the present Peshkash on the Estate.

10. Besides thus reducing the Peshkash, a sum of Rupees 4,45,640, calculated at Rupees 17,140 per annum from Fasli 1230, in which the collection of Darbar charges was discontinued, to 1255, in which the reduction in the Peshkash was made, was refunded to the Zamíndár as follows; Rupees 3,96,243-7-10 was credited to the balance of Peshkash and bonded debt due to Government, and the remaining sum of Rupees 49,396-8-2 was refunded to the Zamíndár in ready cash.

11. But no reduction was made in the Peshkash or any amount refunded to the Zamíndár on account of the Shroff Rusúms or fees in question abolished simultaneously with Darbar charges.

The amount entered by the Circuit Committee and by the Special Committee on account of this item in the assets of the Estate was Rupees 3,008-11-8; but as none of the former accounts are extent, it is not quite certain at what rate these fees were collected. From the accounts, however, of a few Faslis just before the permanent Settlement was made, it appears that this item was collected at 1¼ Rupee per cent. on the gross revenues of the Estate. Out of the amount thus collected, the Shroff was paid at the rate of 6 Annas, and the remainder was credited to the Estate in the account as follows:—

Faslis.	Collection Pagodas. F. C.	Paid to Shroff. Pagodas.	Balance credited to Estate. P. F. C.
* *No detailed accounts of this Fasli.* 1208*	..... 0 0 0	..... 0 0 0	..... 301 35 8
1209	..... 314 5 60	..... 92 12 67	..... 221 34 73
1210	..... 182 1 38	..... 52 14 60	..... 129 28 56

The Jamábandí account of Fasli 1211 is not forthcoming. From Faslis 1212 to 1228, the Parganá was under the management of the Zamíndár. From the villagewar accounts of this time that are extant in the records, it appears that the fees were collected at the above mentioned rate of 1¼ Rupee per cent. In the Jamábandí Forms and Statements of Faslis 1226 to 1229, the fees in question were credited in the accounts at the same rate as follows:

Faslis.	R. A. P.
1226	802 12 0
1227...	712 10 0
1228	480 8 3
1229...	874 2 6

It does not, however, appear from these accounts how the Shroff then received his fees; probably they were given him separately by the villagers who thus had to pay double fees. In Fasli 1230, the then Collector, Mr. Russell, recommended that this item also, together with Darbar charges should be discontinued. The recommendation was sanctioned. The collection was accordingly stopped and the item in question entirely disappeared in the accounts from Fasli 1230 or A. D. 1820-1. But in the Order, dated 6th July 1821, issued by Mr. Russell, it was stated that, although the Government discontinued the collections of the Shroff's fees from the Raiyats, yet it was the duty of the latter to get the coins shroffed before it was paid into the Treasury; and that, therefore, the fees in question could not be considered in the light of other charges, and should be paid at a reduced rate of ½ Rupee per cent. It is not certain whether this was paid regularly or not to the Shroff; but no complaint was apparently ever made.

12. From Fasli 1228 to Fasli 1258, (except for a short time in Fasli 1241) the Estate was under attachment. In Fasli 1245 or A. D. 1835, December, when the Táluqs were established, the then authorities fixed the pay for the Shroff. Two were employed for some time at 9† Rupees per mensem and afterwards at 5 Rupees each. The salaries were paid up to 11th July 1840, and the Shroff's fees which was fixed at Rupees 253 per annum was credited to the accounts as follows:

		Faslis.	R.	A.		
† 1 *at* 5		1246 (part)	184	8		
1 *at* 4		1247 whole...	253	0		
—	—	1248...	253	0		
2	9	1249	253	0		
—	—				943	8
		Deduct on account of salaries paid to Shroffs.			252	0
		Remainder credited to the Estate...			691	8

Then the Shroffs presented Arzis to the effect that they and their forefathers were in the habit of receiving fees from Fasli 1162, and that they might be allowed to take their usual fees, certain Pettanadárs and Raiyats also presented Arzis praying that these fees might not be credited in the accounts, and that they might be permitted to give the fees to the Shroff as usual. An Order‡ was then issued to the Tahsíldár of Sallapalli, stating that the Shroff's fees entered in the Circuit Committee accounts, which was abolished in Fasli 1230, and for the corresponding deduction of which from the Peshkash, a recommendation was made on 31st July 1838, by Mr. Grant, the then Collector, was quite different from the fees paid by the Raiyats to the Shroff, amounting to 250 Rupees per annum, and that, as this last item was not consequently abolished,

‡ *Dated 26th September* 1840.

it should be paid as usual to the Shroff, without being entered in the accounts, the monthly salaries being stopped.

13 From this Order, it would appear that the Shroff's fees entered in the assets were quite different from what the Shroff used to receive from the Raiyats and that the whole amount, Rupees 3,008-11-8 was carried to the credit of the Estate. But even supposing that a portion of the fees collected by the Zamíndár was paid, as stated above, to the Shroff at 6 Annas out of $1\frac{1}{4}$ Rupee per cent., it is quite clear that, from Fasli 1230, in which the collection of the fees was discontinued up to this Fasli, nothing has been credited to the Estate, though $\frac{2}{3}$rds of the said Rupees 3,008-11-8 entered in the assets has been regularly collected from the Zamíndár. A small sum of Rupees 691-8, however, being the balance of the collections on account of Shroff's fees from Faslis 1246 to 1249, after deducting the salaries paid to the Shroffs, was credited to the Estate. Except for this short period, the Shroffs have been in the receipt of fees at the rate fixed by Mr. Russell and the Zamíndár has never paid them anything. It is, therefore, a clear loss to him, and in any opinion should justly be re-imbursed to the Zamíndár as follows:

	R.	A.	P.
From Fasli 1230 in which it was abolished to Fasli 1269, being 40 years, at Rupees 2,005-13-1 (being $\frac{2}{3}$ds of Rupees 3,008-11-8)	80,232	11	4
Deduct expenses for collecting the said amount at 10 per cent.	8,023	4	4
	72,209	7	0
Deduct also the balance abovementioned credited to the Estate under the head of Shroff Rusúms...	691	8	0
Balance payable to Zamíndár..	71,517	15	0

14. Mr. Russell, who recommended the abolition of the items in question in Fasli 1230, gave it as his opinion that they should be temporarily discontinued until such time as the Estate might be able to bear the full Assessment from the general improvement in its resources arising from increased cultivation. The Estate may be now said to be in a flourishing state, the Anicut Channels, which intersect the Parganá, having increased the resources of the lands. The Raiyats should, therefore, in future, be called on to pay this trivial item which is collected without any trouble in other Zamíndáris; as well as several other extra items.

15. The "Darbar charges," which was rather a heavy item, having been finally abolished by the Government of India, the Petitioner may, in my opinion, be permitted to collect again the Shroff's Rusúms at the same rate and on the same principles as were observed in collecting it before the permanent Settlement. This will not be considered anything heavy on 66 villages, and no reduction, therefore, need be made in the Peshkash on account of this item.

16. As regards any reduction from the Peshkash, which the Memorialist prays for, I am not prepared to support it. The lands of this Táluq are peculiarly fertile. The Punasa crops are sown early in June as soon as the monsoon sets in, Mokkajonna or the great Millet being the chief crop. From these, the Zemíndár reaps on average no less than 20,000 Rupees. Then the staple crops Jonna and black Paddy are sown in July. There is also 817 acres of irrigated land. From all these, he reaps Rupees 80,000 on average. Last of all the Paira crops, viz., the different pulses fetch him about 20,000 Rupees, total 1,20,000 Rupees is the gross revenue in round numbers. The actual collections in the Estate from Fasli 1265 to 1267 are given in the margin. Deduct Peshkash 85,550 Rupees, and the remainder is 34,450 or the principle of allowing the Zamíndár one-third of the collections is more than amply preserved. These collections, however, include the profits of the villages pledged by the Zemíndár to his creditors in liquidation of his private debts. But Government have of course nothing to do with the latter; on the other hand, the Estate is now relieved of a heavy expenditure on account of Maramant works, such as raising and strengthening embarkments, &c., to keep off the overflowings of the Krishna and of the danger to which his dry villages were liable from the inundations.

Faslis.	Collection.		
	R.	A.	P.
1265	1,33,190	7	4
1266	1,12,655	4	2
1267	1,19,223	15	11
Total.	3,65,069	11	5
	1,21,689	14	6

average.

17. The Táluq being under the sharing system, the value or the profits of the land is not exactly the same throughout, but it varies according to the goodness of the season. From one source, however, it is easy to show that the lands of this Parganá are peculiarly fruitful. An acre of best Bhagayet land in some of the villages pays no less than 24 Rupees, whereas an acre of the best land in the adjacent Médúr Parganá belonging to the Nuzid Zamíndári pary only 18 Rupees. The best lands in the adjacent Táluqs of Divi and Bandar pay only 7 and 13 Rupees respectively per acre, and so well satisfied is the Zamíndár with the-outturn of his lands, that

when I lately rode over the line of Canal proposed by Lieutenant Beatty, I found the land well adapted for irrigation and the Raiyats were in favor of the scheme; but the Zamíndár's influence was thrown into the other scale and it fell to the ground.

18. Under these circumstances and as it appears that the collections on the average do come up to the Peshkash, plus half of it on account of Zamíndár's share, I feel myself unable to recommend any decrease in the Peshkash on the score of its highness.

Statement showing the difference between the calculations made by the Circuit and Special Committees in the late Masulipatam District in the assets of the several Zemíndáries.

1		2	Two thirds of the gross collections on the Estate according to the calculations of the	
		Names of Zamíndári, Estates, or Villages.	Circuit Committee.	Special Committee (being the permanent Beriz.)
			3	4
			Pagodas.	Pagodas.
Estates, the permanent Beriz of which was equal to the average taken by the Circuit Committee.	1	Devarakota	29,343	29,340
	2	Bezoarah	10,336	10,338
	3	Vellanki Venkatakristnaráo		634
	4	Do. Ramakrishnaráo...		634
	5	Do. China Ramarás		634
	6	Do. Luchmaráo...		925
	7	Do. Venkammaráo...	5,746	5,746 375
	8	Do. Venkatagopalarás.		376
	9	Do. Tirumalráo		189
	10	Nevalikonijarla		208
	11	Wootkoorwar of Komera		1,396
	12	Varigonavar of Vissanapetta		
	13	Charmahal	34,820	34,820
Estates, the permanent Beriz of which was below the average of the Circuit Committee.	1	Naidadavole	61,263	60,000
	2	Nuzivid	33,521	28,000
	3	Lingagiri...	273	135
	4	Munagala	2,571	1,285
	5	Chintalapudi	4,176	3,300
	6	Chanubonda..	330	225
	7	Jungudurú	1,961	1,800
	8	Vallúr...	6,882	6,000
	9	Kalidindi...	1,210	900
	10	Divi	15,836	13,682
Estates, the permanent Beriz of which was higher than the average taken by the Circuit Committee.	1	Nandigámá	26,646	30,000
	2	Mylavaram	4,094	5,200
	3	Kondapalli	2,200	4,500
	4	Akúlawamaunadu..	534	740
	5	Arlankalu...	1,904	2,500
	6	Pedana....	2,110	2,660
	7	Gúdúr	4,580	7,600
	8	Tummidi	2,333	3,441
	9	Ellore		
	10	Koovali		
	11	Pedapád	2,13,361	19,768
	12	Vasantavada		
	13	Malakacherla		
	14	Kruttivenun...	737	840

Krishna District Collector's Kachéri, Masulipatam, 3rd May 1860.

(Signed) W. KNOX, *Collector.*

No. 122. ORDER THEREON, 11th June 1860, No. 964.

Ordered to be referred to the Board of Revenue for report.

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

Rev. 1861 Oct. 8th
Pro of Govt for Issues
From No. 981
The Collector of
Kistna District
To The Private Secretary
to Government
Fort St. George
Dated 3rd May
Recd 10th May
Desp 5th do.
1860
No. 8
Encl 2
Viz.
1 Petition not reqd
1 Statement
From the Secy to the Bd of Revd 3/11th July /69 in Pro. 8 Oct. 126 127
Submitting with reference to a demi official letter of 25th November last, a report regarding the Peshkash of Davarocata Estate.
No. 964 - 11th June
with an order

Copy in a Letter to England
1/8 8th Decr. /66 No. 135.
Fort St. George
11th June /60
11 Copies to the Board of Rev: with an Extract Pro Dist 125
17370
15-11-92
No. 964.
Ordered to be referred to the Board of Revenue for Report.
No. 121 + 122.

M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.