M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1847	Press Mis.
200. 201	
Dated 21-9-1867.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 200. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 31st July 1861, No. 4,115:—

Read the following letter from B. CUNLIFFE, Esq., Collector of Madras, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Chepauk, dated Saidapet, 22nd June 1861, No. 201.

SIR,

1. With reference to the Board's Proceedings, 21st May 1861, No. 2,580, I have the honor to forward the report of the Acting Sub-Collector upon the present condition of the Yenadis of Striharikotta, as called for in paragraph 2, Government Proceedings, 12th May 1860, No. 991.

2. Enclosure 2 of the Sub-Collector's letter being slightly incorrect, another Statement has been prepared in this office, which shows that, as regards the results of Fasli, 1269, there was the sum of 99 Rupees carried to the credit of the Government. In this Statement, however, the pay of the Schoolmaster (10 Rupees monthly) is not entered; so that present arrangements with respect to the Yenadis may be said to entail a loss to Government of some 20 Rupees in round numbers. The allowance originally given was two-thirds of the receipts, but this ratio has been exceeded of late years, owing to the high price of the grain and cloths distributed.

3. Mr. Eliott suggests that payments in money shall take the place of those made in kind, as the people appear to be acquainted with the value of the precious metals, and as supplying their own wants by purchases in coin they will be brought more in contact with their fellow-creatures.

4. He recommends also that the jungle products may be given up to them for one year, and they be allowed to make the most they can of them. He also advises that they and the resident wood-cutters may be exclusively employed in felling the Striharikotta jungle under the annual contractors.

5. The first experiment may, I think, be tried; but the expediency of the others appear to me doubtful. If the Yenadis are to dispose to purchasers of the jungle produce, they will fall into the hands of one or two parties, who will persuade them to bring the produce, and while, as I apprehend, the Yenadi will obtain no more than he has hitherto received from the Government, the latter will lose the proceeds from the sale of these products, the direct trader alone having largely profited.

6. The Striharikotta jungle has been portioned out into eight lots, and one annually rented, and I suppose that we cannot interfere in the contractor's selection of his own agents, as wood-cutters, though, if the Yenadis are expert in this calling, it may be presumed that the contractor will engage them.

7. One portion in eight, being leased yearly, and branches from three to nine inches in circumference only being lopped under the lease, it is supposed that the seven years' rest would enable the jungle to recover itself, and under this supposition, there is no reason to fear any material deficiency either in the wood or in their expte produce.

From Acting Collector, 1st May 1860, No. 119.
" 28th " " " 163.
" 11th June " " 186.

8. Mr. Eliott seems to confirm the opinions expressed in the correspondence marginally noted, that the younger members of the tribe are by force of education improving, but that the seniors continue in their half-civilized state.

9. On the whole, I would recommend that with the substitution of payments in money for those in kind, no change be made in present arrangements. I infer that the tribe are not sufficiently intelligent to be left to their own resources, and that their unavoidable dependence upon some quarter should be borne by the Government rather than by private parties, whose interests would be the better subserved by keeping these rude people in a state of ignorance and slavery.

From E. F. ELIOTT, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to B. CUNLIFFE, Esq., Collector of Madras District, dated Chingleput, 15th June 1861, No. 142.

SIR,

1. I have the honor, with reference to your letter, No. 90, dated 28th February last, to inform you that I visited the Striharikotta jungles on the 14th March last, and inspected the Yenadis who were assembled before me for the purpose, and I now beg to submit the result of the inquiries there made, and the information then obtained by me on the various points adverted to by Government in their Order of the 28th May 1860, No. 866, communicated by the Board on the 30th idem, No. 2,599, and enclosed with your letter under reply.

2. With regard to the elder branch of the Yenadis, it does not appear that any advance has been made by them in the matter of civilization from last year. Every third day ready money is given to them to buy food at the bazar, and several of them begin to understand the value of money and buy articles of food of themselves and pay the cash in fractions of Annas and Rupees, as the case may be; but they do not all come in for this purpose. One man brings in the work of four men, and receives payment according to the share to which each is individually entitled for the work done by them, which he is able to portion out again to them according to the share of each, after returning to the jungle. A great many of them, however, do not yet know as much, nor can they bargain. The proportion of ignorant to learned is stated to be nearly equal. Their children return from school to their homes daily, but their education has no apparent effect on their parents.

3. It is difficult to say for positive at present, what the result to them would be, if they were permitted to act for themselves independent of Government aid. I believe myself that unless some provision of the kind I shall mention hereafter is made for them, their condition will be more destitute than before, and tend to cause a relapse in their state of civilization, as their means of procuring a livelihood is visibly vanishing as the felling of the jungles proceeds.

4. The first point to be considered is to find them employment, and if this be done, I have no fears but that they may with safety now be left to themselves. In this case those who have learnt the value of money will be able to trade for themselves in the same articles as Government now purchase from them, and those who are ignorant could trade through the better informed, and merchants will have to take the place of Government, and give advances for the articles required. Some slight loss, however, will be sustained by the Yenadis in the want of honey and bees-wax, which cannot be procured with the felling of the jungle trees.

5. The most lucrative trade to them is in Tamarind-fruit, and Chea-root. The returns for Fasli 1269 show that $10\frac{3}{4}$ maunds of honey, valued at Rupees 26-5-1, were brought by these people, for which they received Rupees 5-8-6, and bees-wax 1 maund valued Rupees 2-2; but for Tamarind-fruit, out of Rupees 118-6-9 supplied by them, they received a bonus of Rupees 39-14-4, and for Chea-root, a bonus of Rupees 250-13-8 out of Rupees 1,413-12-3 supplied, neither of which last-named items will suffer to any material extent by the felling, and are at the same time, as before said, the most lucrative in comparison. The Chea-root may, it is said, be effected by the felling of the jungles, as it may wither from want of shade.

6. Out of all the Yenadis, there are only four who know how to cultivate, and they will find a living in that they have learnt. The Yenadis themselves complain that the batta given them by Government is insufficient for them, and they state that they would prefer that it were stopped, if the felling of the jungles were stopped also, when they could easily obtain a sufficient livelihood. I would here remark that besides the Yenadis entered as recipients of Government bounty, there are 70 or 80 others wholly independent, who gain a livelihood by working in the fields of the cultivating portion of the community, like the working Parias of the District generally, only they receive as the price of their labour rice daily, and an old cloth now and then, and their marriage expenses are defrayed by their employers. These are a degree more civilized than the other Yenadis, and talk freely, and know even a little Tamil, and seem to be as happy and contented for the time, as the nature of these people will allow them to be; but on occasions they also run off to the jungles. This state of civilization in them originated by their

intercourse with the cultivators, in felling wood in the jungles, when they became a species of servant to them, and from, being accustomed to do what they told them, they commenced cultivation, and have managed to exist by their own efforts.

7. There is a very apparent difference for the better in the education of the younger branch of this race; they can read print fairly, but not a running hand-writing; they can write very little, but know figures well, and can count up to 1,000 and know the fractions of Annas and Rupees, and the three elementary rules of Arithmetic; Addition, Multiplication, and Subtraction. They also wear Vishnu marks on their forehead like other natives generally, and know the names of the different parts of the body of which they were wholly ignorant at first. It would be ruination to them to break off their schooling now, and would assuredly undo all the good that has been done. Within four years they would be fit to work as Gumáshtas to merchants, and could thereby maintain themselves and parents; but their progress in learning is excessively slow, owing to their intense denseness of comprehension consequent on their former wild habit of life; though slow however, it may be said to be sure, and it would be most unadvisable to withdraw it at present. These children eat no fruits or roots, but rice only, and are altogether more civilized. There are 47 boys reading in the school, which is three less than last year, and twelve of these never come at all regularly.

8. The other portion of the original inhabitants of this island are the wood-cutters, who live by cutting the jungles and a little cultivation, and who have had more opportunities of intercourse with civilized people, and are not in so rude a state in consequence. They state they have been nearly ruined by the felling of the jungles, and if they are continued to be felled, they must leave the island altogether.

9. The Striharikotta jungles are divided into eight portions of four miles by five each. One portion is cut every year; four portions have been cut and four remain, which however are not such a dense jungle as that already cut. From July to February is the cutting time, and by 15th March the cut wood is required to be removed from the jungle or it is attached, and by the 15th June it must be shipped off, or it is attached. The annual income to Government by the present system of renting the jungle is marginally* given. It is quite evident, therefore, that to drop the present system of rental would be to entail a heavy and unnecessary loss to Government, which never could be thought of, and therefore the request of the Yenadis and the wood-cutters as to this point cannot be granted.

	RS.	A.	P.
* Firewood...	14,133	4	4
Rattan and the tender branches of date trees...	101	0	0
Isvara root Vishabudi...	42	0	0
Soapnut...	317	0	0
A varum bark	211	0	0
Yettikottai...	10	0	0
Paul shrub	8	8	0
Total...	14,822	12	4

10. I beg to enclose herewith two Statements made out for Fasli 1269, one showing the articles gathered by the Yenadis, the expenses incurred thereby, and profits derived therefrom; and the other showing the number of the Yenadis of all ages and sexes now recipients of the Government bounty, and the amount and the rate now paid by Government for their food and clothing per annum.

11. By the first of these Statements it is shown that the value of the articles received by Government in that Fasli is Rupees 1,560-10-1, the amount of expenditure incurred, Rupees 1,488-6-1, profits 72-4. Out of the amount of expenditure incurred are two items, one for Rupees 356-13-9 for grain granted gratis during the months of August, September and October, and another for Rupees 611-8-10 for the value of cloth supplied twice a year, making a total of Rupees 968-6-7.

12. By referring to the second Statement you will perceive that the total number of persons of all ages and sexes is 444, and that at the rates allowed by Government, the total expenditure is Rupees 1,488-6-1, which being distributed in proportion according to age and sex, allows for each male adult for food and clothing for the year Rupees 4; and for each female adult Rupees 5, which of itself shows the insufficiency of the amount for the sole maintenance of the recipient, and proves that they must have other means of livelihood besides what they are now receiving from the Government.

13. The principle hitherto has been for Government to give the Yenadis two-thirds of the profits of their labor, and take the remaining one-third paying them both in money and kind, though this proportion of expenditure is often exceeded. I would here suggest that has the Yenadis have now been taught to value money, and to appreciate the advantages derivable from the use of rice for food, and cloth for dress, that it would be for their own advantage if Government were to withhold their interference, on trial for one year at least, in the payment to them of any thing in *kind*.

14. Should this experiment be found successful as a test of their desire for rational pursuits, and a civilized habit of life, I would then recommend that they should be allowed to enjoy for a time on their own responsibility, the whole profits for their labor, without looking to Government for the assistance which has hitherto been afforded them in the sale of their articles. This will entail only a very slight loss to Government, and on the other hand will tend to make the Yenadis more independent, and more on the look out for themselves for those comforts which they could not so readily obtain, and will necessarily bring them into more habitual communication with other classes; and moreover, with the additional one-third thereby allowed to them, they could consistently live on the profits of their own labor, throughout the year, without any assistance gratis from the Government, as has been shown is customary now for three months when there is no work; for, as may be seen by the accounts now rendered, instead of Rupees 1,488-6-1 they would have Rupees 1,560-10-1 to live upon, and if the less sum has hitherto been sufficient for them, assuredly the greater sum ought to be.

15. The next point to be considered is where, or how employment is to be found for them when their present means of livelihood becomes considerably reduced or exhausted by the felling of the jungles. I would suggest that then an express provision should be made, in renting out the jungles, that the privilege now enjoyed by the wood-cutters of felling these jungles, should be allowed exclusively equally to them and the Yenadis, which would supply them with a means of gaining their livelihood and of intercourse with other classes, at the same. If, at the expiration of the period of trial that may be allowed them, it be proved satisfactorily that they are able to support themselves unaided, it will be for Government to decide the rates of assessment to be levied upon the fruits of their labour. This is the only feasible plan towards the accomplishment of this object that I can think of to propose.

16. The records forwarded with your letter under reply are herewith returned.

In Cons. 20th August 1860, No. 4,119.

1. Ordered that the above letter be submitted to Government, with reference to their Proceedings, No. 1,384, Revenue Department, dated 18th August 1860.

2. The Statement forwarded by the Collector exhibits the gross receipts and charges for Fasli 1264, as Rupees 1,614 against Rupees 1,514 leaving a surplus of about Rupees 100; but as the salary of the School-master amounting to Rupees 10 per mensem, is not included in the charges, the result is really a small excess of charges above receipts.

In Cons. 20th August 1861, No. 2,441.

3. The Board, however, observe that in his letter of 18th April last, No. 115, asking for leave to employ two Peons temporarily for the collection of the jungle products on the ground that the Yenadis were becoming remiss in collecting them in consequence of the reduced Táluq Establishment not allowing of Peons being detached on this duty, the value of the products as "realized in Fasli 1269," was given at Rupees 1,703. The Collector should explain this discrepancy. The revenue derived in Fasli 1268, was stated in Mr. Shubrick's letter of 15th December 1859, No. 460, at

In Cons. 16th December 1859, No. 6,258

Rupees 2,086, and in renewing his application for the necessary temporary servants, Mr. Cunliffe will please to forward a five years' account of receipts and charges, without entering the minute details. He will state distinctly whether the revenue entered is the actual sale proceeds of the articles received from Yenadis, or calculated on an estimate of value, and will explain in either case how the sales are conducted, or estimates formed.

4. The Board do not consider that the Yenadis are yet sufficiently advanced in civilization to allow of the present system being discontinued without detriment to them; but they agree with Mr. Cunliffe in opinion that it may be relaxed by the substitution of money payments for payments in kind for the jungle products purchased from them by Government. This change will tend to bring them necessarily into more immediate contact with their fellow-men, and will so far be an advantage. In consideration, however, of the advance in prices for all necessaries of life, the Board think that the full value of the jungle products should be given by Government. On this point the Board will be glad to have the Collector's opinion.

5. The Board would recommend that the Inspector of Schools for the Division which includes Striharikottah be desired to take an opportunity of visiting the School periodically, and to report his observations.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Secretary.*

No. 201. ORDER THEREON, 21st September 1861, No. 1,847.

1. With these Proceedings the Board of Revenue forward with their opinion the reports of the Collector and Sub-Collector of Madras, on the condition of the Yenadis of Striharikotta, called for in the Orders marginally noted.

12th May 1860, No. 991, Public Works Department.
28th " " " 866, Revenue Department.
18th Aug. " " 1,384, "

2. The Government were inclined to think that the interference hitherto exercised by the Collector with a view to the civilization of these people, should cease for the advantage of the Yenadis, not less than on general considerations: and that they might be properly and beneficially left to traffic with private traders in the ordinary manner. With this view they directed that either the Collector or Sub-Collector should visit the locality and make a personal inquiry into the system pursued.

3. Mr. Eliott has in consequence seen the place and people, and has proposed certain modifications. He is opposed to leaving them to themselves, unless some employment can be found for them. He anticipates that their present mode of livelihood will be considerably reduced by the felling of the jungles, where they gather the wild products which they now collect on behalf of Government. He suggests, in the first instance, that payment should be made to them for a year in *money* instead of *kind;* and if this experiment succeeds, he would let them enjoy for a certain time the whole of the jungle produce, which they should dispose of on their own account, without looking to Government for assistance in the sale. He would also allow them the privilege, now confined to the wood-cutters, of felling for the contractors who rent the jungles; this, he thinks, would both add to their means of livelihood, and, at the same time, afford them an opportunity of mixing with other classes.

4. Mr. Cunliffe supports the proposition for payment being made in money, but he would not make any change in the other arrangements. He does not fear any material deficiency either in the wood or jungle produce.

5. The Board do not consider the Yenadis sufficiently advanced in civilization, to allow of the present system being discontinued without detriment to them. The Government therefore will not press the point. They accede to the only change recommended by the Board, viz., that noticed above, of payments in money instead of kind, and would allow the full value of the products brought. The Board it is observed have referred this point for the Collector's opinion, but the difference is so trifling (only one-sixteenth in the case of Fasli 1269, though nominally one-third) that it may be given at once.

6. Paragraph 5 of the Board's Proceedings will be disposed of in the Educational Department. The school referred to has evidently done something in improving the younger portion of these Yenadis. The adults generally remain as they were.

7. Including the charge for this school, the disbursements for 1269, it is seen, slightly exceeded the receipts. It is not explained in Statement 3, how the amount realized by the Yenadis working in the Government fields, has been calculated.

8. The further information called for in paragraph 3 of the Board's Proceedings should be submitted to Government on receipt.

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

Rev Depart

N° 1847

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 21st September 1861
Read the following
Proceedings of the Board
of Revenue-

Submitting with
remarks a letter from the
Collector of Madras, re-
porting on the present
conditions of the Yenadis
of Strikarikotta

(There enter 31st July 1861
N° 1115)

With three Pro
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Revenue forward with
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12 May 60 - 1991 P.W.D
28 " " 1866 Rev. Dept
18 August 1884 do

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cfw

It has done very fairly -

14 Cosins. Boards of Revenue
4 " Educational Dept
3 " Accountant Genl
3 " Civil Paymasters

Civil No. 23

(3)

Yenadies of Stharicolla

Revenue 1861 Departt.
Pro: of Govt. for Septr.

No. 1847.

Pro: of the Madras Govt.
Dd 21st Septr. 61.

Pro: of the Madras Govt in the Educational Dept. of 1 Oct 1861 No 2357 with
3 Copies & 1 Map
From Do 8 of 18 Dec 1861 C No 2989
From the Bd of Rev 2 of 21st Nov 61
C No 2772

Boards Proceedings on the present condition of the Yenadis of Sthari Kolla, with orders thereon.

No 200 to 201.

C 18 Sept 20th