M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 267 Press ~~Mis.~~

227.128

Dated 6-12-1926

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 16th December 1862.

No. 227. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Political Department, dated 10th December 1862, No. 493 :—

Passing orders on a letter from the Acting Agent to the Governor at Vizagapatam, regarding the term by which the proprietor of the Vizianagram Zamindary should be styled in official correspondence. (Vide Political Proceedings, 10th December 1862, Nos. 25, 26.)

No. 228. ORDER THEREON, 16th December 1862, No. 2,617.

Communicated to the following authorities for information :—

Board of Revenue.
Director of Revenue Settlement.
Superintendent of Revenue Survey.
Conservator of Forests.
Inám Commissioner.

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

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from D. F. CARMICHAEL, Esq., Acting Agent to the Governor, Vizagapatam; to the Honorable T. PYCROFT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Vizagapatam, 23rd October 1862, No. 879.

The Rájá of Vizianagrum has a small Estate in the Godávari District, about which the Colléctor lately had occasion to correspond with him. Mr. Purvis, in addressing the Rájá, called him "Your Highness" once or twice and superscribed the letters to His Highness the Rájá of Vizianagrum. The Board enquired if the letters before them were literal copies, or translation; and, if the former, "whence Mr. Purvis derived authority for adopting the style of address "used by him, which the Board consider very unsuitable and objectionable." Mr. Purvis replied that he had written in English and had followed the style of address which had been used by his predecessor. And upon this the Board "considered that the style of address was "altogether unsuited to the *Zemindar's* position, and objectionable as calculated to create false "ideas. It was moreover not in use with *other Zemindars*, and the Board resolved to direct "its discontinuance." These papers are enclosed, and it is requested may be returned when no longer required.

2. In one or two subsequent orders, addressed to me, the Board have limited the address to the words "Vizianagrum Zemindar." The Rájá feels aggrieved at this, and, as requested by him, I have the honor to forward a Memorial from him, with its enclosures, for the information and instructions of Government.

3. The enclosures are four in number, and in each the Rájá is addressed as "Highness." The late Prince Consort, our late Commander-in-Chief, His Excellency Sir Patrick Grant, the late Lord Elphinstone, with the other gentleman, are no doubt of exalted position; but not one of them had the power of creating or continuing any title to a Nobleman of this Presidency. The Rájá of course is aware of this, but he calls them into Court to give proof of general usage.

4. Certainly the Rájá is in a different position from any ordinary Zemindar. No Zemindar is entitled to a salute. The Rájá up to 1848 received a Royal salute of 19 guns; and in that year, on his returning from Benares to his native country, the Government were pleased (Extract Revenue Department, No. 606 of 6th June 1848) to regulate the matter afresh, and to order him a salute of 13 guns (an honor equivalent to that to which the Major General Commanding the Division is entitled) on occasions of formal visits of ceremony to the chief authorities at Vizagapatam.

5. As to the title of "His Highness" I cannot discover the origin of it, though it is undoubtedly ancient. On one occasion in 1857,* the Government observed that it had not been recognized by them. But it has been conceded frequently since; notably and very recently in the Order in the Public Works Department, dated 22nd September last, No. 2,271, giving cover to copy of the highly complimentary Despatch from the Secretary of State with reference to the Jeypore Road. The title of "Rájá" however has never been disputed, and not unfrequently "Mahárájá" has been adopted. The latter is contained in the vernacular form of address in use in this Office, and is the name by which the great Vizianagrum Zemindar is universally known throughout the District. We have more than one "Rájá" (as is allowed by Government in the Agency Rules, XXVI, Clause 3), but only one "Mahárájá." Far away, in the Uriya country, there is of course the "Mahárája" of Jeypore.

* Extract Minutes Consultation, 28th July.

6. If this Native Nobleman is to be addressed in future solely as "Zemindar of Vizianagrum" in English correspondence, I apprehend it is clear, from what has gone above, that there will be a sudden derogation of courtesy; if the Government in the order just noted, termed him "His Highness the Rájá" advisedly, I had no need to refer the point; but with the opposite order before me of 1857, it is my duty to transmit the Rájá's letter in view to its being now determined whether that title, or the completer form of "His Highness the *Mahárájá*" is to

be used by officials who have occasion to correspond with the Rájá, officially, in English. In non-official life, there will be no escape from "His Highness the Mahárája" because the Rája always styles himself so.

From the MAHARAJAH of Vizianagrum; to D. F. CARMICHAEL, Esq., Acting Agent to the Governor, Fort Saint George, dated Vizianagrum, 18th October 1862.

In 1860 a dispute arose between the villagers of Kotepilly belonging to my Samustanum in the Godaveri District and the Ryots of the Government village of Kotta also in that District regarding the right to an Island in the river Godaveri. Sundry letters passed between myself and the Collector on the subject. Mr. Purvis in his letters to me which were in English addressed to me as usual "His Highness the Rajah of Vizianagrum." Copies of the correspondence had to be sent to the Board of Revenue, who in disposing of the dispute objected to the use of the terms "His Highness," in future; and have also written to you to discontinue that style.

I beg to bring to your notice that it is a notorious fact that my ancestors were formerly almost like Sovereigns of these Districts, and that the Nizam's Government then the ruling power conferred on my Great-grand-father, the then Maharajah of Vizianagrum, the titles of "Meerjah and Munnia Sultan," terms synonymous with "*Prince*" *and* "*Emperor of the Hill Tracts*," and the British Government ever since their assumption of the country have recognized and continued the same, and have also honored us with a salute of 19 guns whenever visiting the chief Civil and Military authorities at Waltair; such being the case it is not, I presume too much for me to expect or out of place for the Government to continue the use of the titles of "His Highness."

The style is not a new one but one that has been always adopted. I may safely say for a century and more by every European authority, and also by other gentlemen in general with me, my father or grandfather.

Unfortunately I have not many papers in my possession to bear out my assertion as to the antiquity of the use of these titles, but such as have been left I beg to forward for your perusal. Your records no doubt will afford you more evidence of what I say than I can ever be able to produce.

It is not my province to expatiate on the good services rendered to the State and to the country in general by me and my ancestors from time to time. History, the records of Government, and the local and controlling authorities, and the people, all bear testimony to this fact.

I therefore ask that you will lay this my request before the Right Honorable the Governor in Council that the usual forms of address hitherto observed for more than a century be continued.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Acting Agent to the Governor.

ORDER THEREON, 10th December 1862, No. 493.

His Excellency the Governor in Council observes that the Government have not been in the habit of addressing the proprietor of the Vizianagram Zemindary as "His Highness," and that in the Extract Minutes of Consultation, dated the 28th July 1857, the practice which appears to have obtained in the District of Vizagapatam of addressing him by that title was discontinued. In the Proceedings of Government in the Department of Public Works, dated the 22nd September last, the title in question was given apparently by inadvertence. In strictness the title of Zemindar is unquestionably the proper title of the proprietor of the Vizianagram Estate.

2. But as the Acting Agent observes the proprietor of this Estate is in a different position from ordinary Zemindars, and in granting him a salute the Government have recognized his claim to higher honors than it is usual to accord to persons of this class, the Governor in Council accordingly desires that he shall be addressed by the title of Rajah. The addition of "His Highness" cannot be permitted in official correspondence, being, as was observed by Sir Charles Trevelyan in his Minute of the 2nd August 1859, exclusively applicable to a Sovereign Prince.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Acting Agent in Vizagapatam,
(with papers returned.)
Revenue, Judicial, and Public Works Department.

REVENUE

Exd. T. McMootry.

Rev. 1862 Departt.
Pro: of Govt for Decr.
Nr. 3407.

Proceedings of the
Madras Govt in the
Political Depart.

Dated 10th Decem.
Received 11th 1862.

Nr. 493.

Passing orders on a
letter from the Acting Agent
to the Governor at Vizagapatam
regarding the terms by which
the Proprietor of the Vizagapatam
Samendary should be
styled in official Correspond-
ence.

Nos 227 & 228.

No 2617 16 Dec 1862
With an Order.

No 2617.

Communicated to the
following Authorities for information

Board of Revenue
Director of Revenue Settlement
Superintendent of Revenue Survey
Conservator of Forests.
Inam Commissioner

Fort St. Geo.
16 Dec 1862.

1 Copy To the Bd of Revenue
1 — Dirr of Revenue Settlt
1 — Supt of Revenue Survey
1 — Consr of Forests
1 — Inam Commr

} Govt Pro
} Dated 16 Dec 1862 Despatch.