M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2285 Press ~~Mis.~~

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Dated 15-02-~~19~~1863

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 15th December 1863.

No. 242. Read the following Memorial of the Very Reverend B. F. AMARANTE, Vicar General of Saint Thomé, to the Honorable E. MALTBY, Governor and President in Council, &c., &c., &c., Fort Saint George.

MOST HUMBLY SHEWETH,

1. That your Memorialist is the Mootahdar of the village of Canoor in the Conjeveram Talook of the Madras District.

2. That your Memorialist is also a part proprietor of the village of Vurtharajapoorum, having a quarter share of the entire village to himself, while fourteen others hold the other three-quarters by $\frac{1}{16}$ or by $\frac{1}{32}$ share each.

3. That your Memorialist as the proprietor of the largest share of Vurtharajapoorum, and with the concurrence of the other proprietors, applied to the Collector of the Madras District for the lease of the entire village to him on Mootah tenure, offering to pay to Government an increase of 10 per cent. over the last five years' average revenue, which was the highest ever realized; besides providing and keeping in repair the works of irrigation of which Government would be saved the expense.

In letter dated 8th April 1862, vide No. 1 in Enclosure A.

4. That your Memorialist received in reply a letter from the Collector informing him that the Board of Revenue as then constituted were entirely opposed to leasing villages on fixed rent.

Dated 9th April 1862, vide No. 2 in Enclosure A.

5. It was most surprising to your Memorialist that any good Government could be opposed to the system of permanent Settlement, and be favorable to the Puttah system, which so fully admits of abuses, both on the part of the Ryots and on that of Government officials, and which necessitates the keeping up of an unnecessary large Establishment both of Inspectors, Accountants and Collectors of Revenue, and of Engineers and Executors of works of Irrigation, the expenses of which are drawn unnecessarily from the Ryots so much above what they would have to pay in the shape of revenue to Government. The system being objectionable not only on these accounts, not only for its allowing room for much abuses, but also for its interfering with and curbing all attempts at private enterprise.

6. That there was, moreover, a Notification published in the Supplement of the Madras District Gazette so late as the 4th August 1860, in which Merassidars who held a greater share in their village were invited to take it on fixed rent for 30 years, calculated on an average of 10 previous years' revenue; and it was therefore also surprising that the Board of Revenue were so soon indisposed to the fixed rent system; or if they were, they could refuse the grant, so long as the Histar above alluded to, were not cancelled by Government.

Dated 25th June 1862, vide No. 3 in Enclosure A and Enclosure B.

7. That your Memorialist, therefore, addressed the Board of Revenue the letter* of which the accompanying is a copy, in which your Memorialist pointed out, besides the arguments in favor of the fixed rent system, the advantages the Government and the Ryots had derived in the case of your Memorialist's own Mootah village of Canoor, which could never have produced the return it now does, had it not been for the large amount of capital which was sunk upon it to ameliorate the condition of the Ryots and introducing agricultural stock, which Government never does.

8. That in representing these facts, your Memorialist solicited of the Board of Revenue that the village of Vurtharajapoorum might be granted to him either on the Mootah tenure or on the tenure of the Histar for 30 years. Your Memorialist did not fix them to these offers only. If the increase of revenue offered by your Memorialist was deemed insufficient, your Memorialist told them that "Government might fix their own terms," such as they should deem of advantage to the State and to the Ryots. Your Memorialist also intimated to them that he would be prepared to pay the rent which might be fixed, every quarterly without reference to what the village might yield, as he had hitherto done in the case of his Mootah village of Canoor.

9. That a full year after the date of his letter to the Board, your Memorialist received on the 26th June last their Endorsement, dated the 6th idem, stating that after due consideration the Board have resolved not to accept your Memorialist's proposal to rent the village of Vurtharajapoorum, as they consider that such a change of tenure would neither be beneficial to the Government nor to the Ryots.

Enclosure C.

10. That the Board were evidently wrong in these two positions of their decision: for, with your Memorialist's offer before them of an increase of 10 per cent. under the Mootah tenure over the average of the previous five years' revenue, which was the highest ever realized; or of a profit under the tenure of the Histar, together with a saving in either case, of expenditure on irrigation works and in the Revenue and Engineer Establishments, besides getting the sinking of a capital to improve the means of cultivation and the condition of the Ryots; it was positively wrong to say that such a change of tenure would not be beneficial to Government. It was equally wrong to say that the Ryots would not be benefited thereby; for the first step towards improvement is the amelioration of their condition, and the augmentation of their agricultural capacity which your Memorialist had offered to effect.

10. But your Memorialist did not limit the Board to the terms which he proposed, but had left open for them and for Government to fix such terms as they might deem of advantage to the State and to the Ryots.

11. That as there was, therefore, no room for thinking that the proposed change of tenure would neither be beneficial to Government nor to the Ryots, your Memorialist believing that the Board had misapprehended the matter, or stood on some erroneous grounds, applied* to them for a copy of their decision, in order that he might have an opportunity to correct any misapprehension they might be lying under; or should the case require an appeal to Government, he might submit some explanation in refutation of the ground on which the Board had founded their decision, but to his surprise your Memorialist received another Endorsement† stating that they must decline to furnish a copy of the Collector's letter, as communications from such Officers are always confidential. But your Memorialist did not apply for a copy of the Collector's letter, but only for a copy of their decision or Proceedings thereon, in which he expected to find all the arguments upon which their decision was based.

* In letter dated 30th June 1863, vide No. 1 in Enclosure D.

† Dated 16th July 1863, vide No. 2 in Enclosure D.

12. That under such circumstances, your Memorialist is obliged to appeal to Government. He believes that the Board could not have misunderstood the nature of his request, and he has therefore, reason to consider the Board's last reply as evasive. In appealing to Government, your Memorialist regrets that he has not the means of knowing or offering any explanation on the Board's real objections. He is therefore obliged with these explanations to lay his case before Government for decision. It will be observed that from the beginning all that your Memorialist wanted was the grant of the village on fixed rent; and without limiting the terms had left it open for Government to fix such as they might deem proper. It has been already explained in your Memorialist's letters to the Collector and the Board, that his object in seeking to obtain the village on Mootah tenure was to apply the benefit arising therefrom for charitable purposes. Your Memorialist has still the same object in view, and should your Excellency favor your Memorialist with the grant of the village on fixed rent, it is his intention to open a school for the education of Native children, to build a small Bungalow for Europeans and Indo-Briton travellers, and a Church for Catholic Christians; and all his solicitude is to obtain from the proceeds of the village a small and continued support for these Institutions of public utility. Unless the village is granted on fixed rent your Memorialist could do nothing towards its improvement, as it will require a considerable expenditure which, were it to be made now, would only serve to benefit other share-holders rather than contribute to the object your Memorialist has in view. And, moreover, your Memorialist must be loath to incur such an expenditure under the Puttah system, as besides the objections your Memorialist have urged against it, as giving no room for the display of private enterprise, and as affording no security under it against

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15th December 1863.

unjust interference and oppression of Government officials, he fears that all would be vain; and there is besides so much trouble and inconvenience under that system, that he has reason to think that his character and position in society will render him hardly able to keep the village.

13. That your Excellency's Memorialist, therefore, humbly prays that your Excellency in Council will be pleased to kindly grant the village of Vurtharajapoorum on fixed rent, under such terms or tenure as your Excellency in Council may consider to be of advantage to the State and the Ryots; and your Excellency's Memorialist will as in duty bound ever pray.

No. 213. ORDER THEREON, 15th December 1863, No. 2,285.

Referred to the Board of Revenue for report with a statement of the actual collections of the village for the last seven or ten years, the Ayacut (exhibiting cultivation and waste under each rate of assessment) and the works of irrigation.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue, with six original enclosures.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Rev = 1863 Oct 4th
Pro of Govt for Decr:
No. 3027

From
Very Rev: B. F.
Amaranthe

Dated
Received - 10th Dec 2nd 1863.

E-6 - sent to B

From B. of Revn 15th March/62
No 720.
From the very Reverend B
F. Amaranthe - 12 May/62 A1262

Requests that the
Village of Vaithavaya pooram
in the Madras Dist. may
be granted to him on fixed
rent under such terms
as may be most advan-
tageous to the State and
Epots. -
No 2285 - 15 Decr
Do to B and Order
L

No. 2285.

Referred to the Board
of Revenue for report with a
statement of the actual Col-
lections of the village for
the last 7 or 10 years - the
average exhibiting cultivation
and waste, under each rate
of assessment, and the work-
ing of irrigation. —

From Govt George
15th December 1863.

No. 242 & 243.

16 Copies to the Bd of Revenue & orig Index Ex. to Decr