M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1105 — Press ~~Mis.~~

348·349

Dated 29 — 6 — ~~18~~ 1864

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 29th June 1864.

No. 348. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 30th May 1864, No. 3,281.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Kurnool, dated 20th April 1864, No. 54 :—

1. With reference to the Order of Government, No. 270, dated 13th February 1864, on the subject of the advance made to Captain Nelson, and calling for information as to the intentions of that gentleman in regard to the project for which the advance was made, I have the honor to submit two letters from Captain Nelson, with statements supplying full information on the points called for by Government.

2. The simple statement of his proceedings contained in Captain Nelson's letter of the 10th March shows the complete failure which has attended this gentleman's persevering efforts to re-claim the waste jungle in the villages granted to him. This failure he attributes to a want of capital, and the unhealthiness of the country. It has been accelerated by the operations of the Irrigation Company, which have so raised the wages of labour, as finally to render the continuance of cultivation almost impracticable.

3. There is no doubt that on the terms of the loan as granted to Captain Nelson, re-payment cannot be looked for. The experiment has resulted in failure the most complete and hopeless, in spite of the energy and self-sacrifice which deserved better success.

4. Captain Nelson proposes to re-pay the sum after six years, if the Government will grant him free of cost 300 Acres of land for a plantation on the Neilgherries, in consideration of his services and sufferings for a period of nearly ten years in this District.

5. I shall be glad to hear that the Government can accede to this request. I knew Captain Nelson when he first started for Siddapoor full of great hopes of restoring to civilization a tract of country once rich and now deserted on account of Malaria; he was prepared to risk life in the experiment, but he looked to the possibility of a great success, not chiefly for any selfish advantages, but with aims that are seldom felt, and not often believed in these times.

6. I believe that no succession of reverses would have driven Captain Nelson from his self imposed task, if the claims of a rising family had not compelled him to look at last to material success, and to endeavour by turning his energies into another field to re-place the losses of nearly ten years of labour, that in a personal point of view must be considered thrown away. Such an experiment as his not likely to be repeated, and a free grant of land to this gentleman on the Neilgherries is not likely to form a dangerous precedent; while it would be a most appropriate recognition on the part of Government of the spirit and zeal which have been devoted to an unfortunately impracticable enterprize.

7. In his letter of the 26th February, Captain Nelson brings forward a proposal for continuing to him the lease of the two villages for a further term of five years, at a fixed rental of Rupees 500 yearly.

8. In their order, No. 764, dated 29th July 1857, the Government directed that at the close of his present rent free lease of ten years, half assessment should be charged to Captain Nelson for a further period of ten years on all land brought under cultivation. Captain Nelson

has hitherto paid the assessment due on the wet land under cultivation when he took up his experiment amounting to Rupees 123 annually, he also pays the grazing tax or Poollary, amounting to Rupees 300 yearly which was granted to him by the orders of the Board for the term of his occupancy of the villages.

9. Captain Nelson although leaving Siddapoor intends to continue his grazing farm, and it appears that he has sub-rented about 100 Acres of cultivation. I believe that most of this land was occupied before Captain Nelson settled at Siddapoor, and that the charge of half assessment on land taken up newly will be very trifling.

10. The villages of Siddapoor and Peddachervoo have not been included in the new settlement and survey, and the extent of the cultivation in them is so trifling that the expense does not appear advisable. The villages are valuable solely for their pasturage, the Poollary on which is to be continued to Captain Nelson during his occupancy. The revenue from this source has hitherto been entirely devoted to his experiment by Captain Nelson, and the continuance of the privilege for a further period of five years appears to me a not unreasonable recompense for his efforts.

11. I consider that a fixed rent of Rupees 500 yearly for the two villages, for a further period of five years, is a fair arrangement, and one more satisfactory than the charge of half assessment on every new field brought under cultivation.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Captain F. NELSON, of Siddapoor and Peddachervoo, to J. I. MINCHIN, Esq., Collector and Chief Magistrate of Kurnool, dated 26th February 1864.

1. My rent free lease for ten years expires with the current year; and I have the Zemindary for a further period of ten years at half assessment. As I am about to leave this District as a resident, and shall merely pay periodical visits to mark cattle, collect rents, &c., &c., this arrangement of paying half assessment would be full of complications, I therefore propose that I shall pay a fixed sum for the Zemindary for the next five years, subject to an increased rental at the end of that time should the cultivation be extended. About 100 Acres are now sub-let to Ryots; and I hope to be able in the course of years to settle as much more; but it is a very uncertain source of income.

2. I already pay for the Poollary contract and land under the tank about (400) four hundred Rupees. For the (40) forty odd Acres under the Siddapoor Tank, I have paid (83) eighty-three Rupees yearly for the last nine years; although I have never once had water enough to cultivate more than half the acreage with Paddy; and for the last two years I have got no crops at all owing to the deficient rains and leaky state of the tank.

3. I therefore propose the sum of Rupees (500) five hundred for the next five years, subject to increase at the end of that time if justified by more extended cultivation. I am sorry to say however that I anticipate retrogression, unless very much more supervision and attention is paid to the Police of this part of the District, if the Native Police alone can under any circumstances restrain the Chenchoowars, fettered as they necessarily are by regulations, which however well framed and adopted to aid the administration of justice in civilized parts are here, to the Chenchoowars, merely an exhibition of unaccountable weakness.

From the same Officer, dated Rajendrapooram, 10th March 1864.

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 20 of 24th February concerning the sum of Rupees 3,000 advanced to me by Government Order in 1854, for the purpose of clearing and cultivating the lands of Siddapoor and Peddachervoo.

2. As the money was advanced subject to re-payment on the success of the undertaking, and as this enterprize has lamentably failed (in a money point of view) the Madras Government are doubtless prepared to order the sum to be written off to profit and loss. Before going into that matter further, I propose at the risk of troubling you with a tiresomely long letter, to make a brief sketch of my proceedings since 1853, when I obtained permission to explore the tract on the Kistna marked "impenetrable" on the Government Survey Map.

3. Permission on three months' leave on full batta was allowed me, and I started from Ongole about 1st March 1853, and returned and sent in my Report in June.

4. It had been my intention to make this shooting excursion my last, and immediately after to leave the service and the country. I was greatly struck with the natural beauty and capabilities of Peddachervoo and Siddapoor, and was so interested in the accounts of the former prosperity that I made up my mind to propose to Government that I should employ myself in an endeavour to re-claim this splendid estate. I believe that I was further induced to do so from hearing that it had been tried before by a Brahmin who had collected money and about eighty Hindoos, and all of whom managed to die of jungle fever within eight months. There was evidently a spice of danger and difficulty in the job which suited me; though I respectfully intimated that if my proposal was rejected it would not be viewed by me as an unmitigated disappointment.

5. The Government of that day understood the meaning of my proposal, that it was not founded mainly or indeed hardly at all on the personal motive of money making. I was a batchelor not in debt, and my few wants amply supplied. All prospects incidental to military life were annihilated by being compelled to invalid. I was still full of vigour, though a weakened knee would not allow me to "run in" as a Light Infantry man should do. I could not live an aimless life, and this is the true history of my being here.

6. I mention this because it has never been known, or is forgotten by the Members of Government of this day, who seem to think that I am of the type "interloper" or settler, who have had but one object, namely, to "develope the resources," &c., in other words to put money in my pocket. I could have done so to some purpose by remaining at Ongole and manufacturing Indigo.

7. I lived and worked hard at Biarlooty from February 1855 till February 1859, when I experienced a terrible rheumatic fever, which deprived me of the use of my lower limbs, and I was carried about in a litter till 1860 when I went home.

8. Before embarking I had the honor to address Government explaining what had been done at Siddapoor and why I was obliged to leave; and the reply by Sir Charles Trevelyan in Council, together with another letter conveying similar sentiments from the Secretary of State for India, will be a source of pleasure to me as long as I live.

9. Greatly to my surprise I entirely shook off my illness, and threw away those miserable old friends, my crutches. I returned to India in 1861; but not as before a batchelor.

10. My affairs had not prospered in my absence. The timber which I had sold, or taxed 1 Rupee per cart when the trade began to be valuable, was appropriated to the State. I petitioned the Collector to be allowed the timber grown within my precincts. The Collector endorsed my letter, and recommended the measure to the Revenue Board, and the Board recorded their judgment in my favour; but the matter came before the Government Council in an evil hour, and my Petition was refused. I then proposed to farm the contract for 1,000 Rupees annually, which after a year's consideration was refused, and the trees which I can burn, but not sell, have realized since 1860 I believe a little more than £2,000.

11. Having now a wife and family I was obliged to give up Biarlooty and build again here more out of the influence of the jungle, at a cost of about 1,200 Rupees. Ploughmen's wages have risen from 4 to 7 and 8 Rupees, and there is a difficulty in getting labourers at any price. I have been chilled by the Proceedings of Government and Order thereen 11th July 1863.

12. I have wasted ten precious years, and spent a great deal of money. I now have a family; and whatever quixotic notions I might once have entertained, I now confess to one sole motive, and that is the acquisition of property for those I shall leave in the course of time; and as it is quite clear that neither honor nor wealth can be attained here, I have applied to Government for permission to reside on the Neilgerries to endeavour to retrieve my fortunes in planting Tea and Chinchona, which has been granted.

13. The advance of 3,000 Rupees, the settlement of which has called forth this letter, has I respectfully urge no claim on me. It was lent on the condition of re-payment, but depending on the success of the undertaking.

14. I did not specify or mention the subject of timber in my original proposal; the forests became valuable and were appropriated by Government, and I am informed that it is quite clear that I am exactly in the position in which Government meant to place me, and in which it was understood I was desirous of being placed. The new waste land rules afford the means of obtaining a proprietary title, in *Kurnool*, &c.

15. This suggestion has prompted me to apply for land on the Neilgherries in preference to this deadly climate. I have the honor therefore to request that you will lay before Government my application for a grant of 300 Acres of land suitable for the cultivation of Tea and Chinchona in consideration of my services and sufferings here for a period of nearly ten years, I giving a bond for the re-payment of the Siddapoor advance of three thousand Rupees in the sixth year of the plantation.

16. I append a Statement of land cleared and cultivated at Siddapoor and Peddachervoo, and a list of deaths from climate up to the present time.

As near as I can make out a sum of (39,660) thirty-nine thousand, six hundred and sixty Rupees have been spent by me exclusive of personal expenses which have always been very little and exclusive of the Government grant of Rupees (3,000) three thousand.

On the side of assets, I have the buildings which cost 3,500, but which there appears little prospect of ever realizing, and three thousand Rupees perhaps of live stock, if they do not die of murrain before arriving at maturity. I have not been able to bank a single Rupee.

I attribute my failure chiefly to want of capital and the unhealthiness of the climate.

I have had twenty-five people on an average in constant pay, and have lost twenty-six in the nine years; all of fever and spleen excepting three.

Rajendrapooram, March 7th, 1864. (Signed) F. NELSON.

STATEMENT *of improvement made at Siddapoor by Captain Nelson since his arrival 28th February* 1855.

BUILDINGS.

	Rs.	A.	F.
Dwelling House cost, say	1,000	0	0
Two pairs Indigo Vats and Bowry. Drying house	600	0	0
Dwelling house at Ragendrapooram	1,200	0	0
Two pairs Vats...	400	0	0
Repairing breach Kocherla Tank	300	0	0
	3,500	0	0

Clearing.	Acres.	Former state.	Remarks.
Home field	25	Thick forest	Uncultivated since 1860. Going back to jungle.
Sugar cane plantation, garden, &c	6	Do.	Partly cultivated.
* Jerroo's field	50	Do.	Uncultivated since 1859. Going back to jungle.
Big Pentah	25	Partly forest; partly scrub	Indian corn harvested 1863.
* Boodaree field	40	Thick bamboo	Uncultivated since 1862. Gone back.
Castor oil pentah	9	Thick forest	Do. 1859
Long pentah	3	Do.	Do. do.
Tobacco pentah	2	Do.	Do. do.
Mooteraz pentah	30	Do.	Do. do.
Ullagoochenoo...	12	Jungle	Do. do.
Boodaree clearing	2	Thick forest	Egyptian Cotton fenced; entirely eaten up by Brinjari cattle
Boolam Venkatachellum's garden, &c.	15	Do.	although a Chenchu watcher was paid.
Kocherla field...	21	Jungle	Uncultivated since 1857. Gone back.
Bovencoonta	15	Do.	Never cultivated
Ten acres field	10	RAJENDRAPOORUM.	Egyptian Cotton on 15 Acres; entirely eaten up by Chenchuwar goats and buffaloes. Chenchu watcher paid.
Home field	2	Accacia Jungle... ...	Do. destroyed by cattle.
Big field	32	Do.	Egyptian Cotton.
New clearing	50	Do.	Do. do.
			Ten Acres Egyptian Cotton.
			Uncultivated.

* Buried there.

Paddy lands under Siddapoor tank :—

60 Acres.—partly cleared by Captain Nelson. Pays 83 Rupees per annum to the Treasury; has not produced one full crop in nine years; waste; no water.

Paddy lands under Peddachervoo Tank :—

45 Acres.—Pays 40 Rupees to Treasury. Partly cultivated.

Rajendrapooram, March 7th, 1864. (Signed) F. NELSON.

List of death casualties at Siddapoor from March 1854 till March 1864, of fever or spleen.

Average number of persons permanently employed, twenty-five.

Gardner Ramsiugh	...	July 1845.
Lutchmia ...	...	September 1854.
Mosala Venkatah...	...	do. 1856.
Troopunad Venkatah	...	November 1856.
Peechiah, snake bite	...	1857.
Jerroo, killed ...	...	1858.
Ibramkhan, do. ...	...	October 1859.
Lalloo	...	1856.
Unkiah	...	1860.
Boodaree... ...	...	do. 1859.
Do. his wife ...	...	1860.
Lutchmin Singh...	...	1858.
Mokeroj ...	...	1861.
Doolum Venkatachellam.		November 1859.
Emam Saib ...	...	1859.
Joseph's wife ...	...	1857.
Sunda ...	...	1856.
Telugoo Narsia ...	...	December 1860.
Butler Venkata ...	...	1858.
Mal Venkata ...	...	October 1863.
Lutchman ...	...	1856.
Goolee Naig ...	...	1862.
Chenalah's wife ...	...	November 1863.
Tota Ayahab ...	...	do. 1863.
Mootka Leema Ayanah...		do. 1863.
Runoolkhan	...	February 1862.
Sabapathy, Manager	...	October 1861.

Many others, names forgotten, died while absent on sick leave.

March 10th, 1864. (Signed) F. NELSON,

(True Copies.)

(Signed) J. I. MINCHIN, *Collector*.

1. Ordered to be submitted for the favourable consideration of Government, with reference to their Order quoted by the Collector. In Government Order, dated 23rd November 1854, the advance of Rupees 3,000 is declared to be re-payable by easy instalments *should Captain Nelson's project succeed*. There is unfortunately no room to doubt that it has failed, and the advance is thus not re-payable on its terms; but Captain Nelson requests that a grant of 300 Acres of land suited for Tea and Chinchona may be made to him on the Neilgherries in consideration of his services and sufferings at Siddapoor for the last ten years, and in that case he undertakes to re-pay the original advance in the sixth year of the plantation.

2. The Board beg leave to advocate the free grant of 300 Acres of suitable land to Captain Nelson on the Neilgherries, unfettered by any conditions; but, in recognition of his unselfish

and philanthropic exertions and sacrifices, leaving it to him to re-pay the Government advance hereafter should he ever find himself in a position to do so. Captain Nelson has sacrificed time and money and health in his earnest endeavours to reclaim a wild race of people and a devastated tract of country; and though he has failed of success he is certainly not on that very ground entitled to less consideration. The proposed grant to an old Officer under such peculiar circumstances cannot be drawn into a precedent. The Board would be glad to know that Captain Nelson had been placed in a position which held out some prospect of his retrieving health and fortune to some extent, and of recruiting his valuable energies.

3. The Board recommend the acceptance of Captain Nelson's offer of Rupees 500 annually for five years from the close of his free tenure of Siddapoor and Peddachervoo as representing the half assessment, which in their Order of 29th July 1857, Revenue Department, the Government determined should be the demand for ten years from the expiry of his free lease.

No. 349. ORDER THEREON, 29th June 1864, No. 1,105.

Land Revenue.

1. Pursuant to the Order of Government 13th February 1864, No. 270, the Board of Revenue report on the subject of the advance of Rupees 3,000 made to Captain Nelson in 1854, in furtherance of his project for reclaiming the lands of Siddapoor and Peddachervoo in the Kurnool District.

2. It is clear that on the terms on which this loan was made, re-payment cannot be sought at present, and the Government apprehend never can be, inasmuch as Captain Nelson has virtually abandoned his enterprize.

3. Captain Nelson now applies for a grant of 300 Acres of land suited for Tea and Chinchona culture on the Neilgherries, and offers, if this be conceded, to re-pay the loan of 3,000 Rupees in the sixth year of the plantation. The Government are unable to accede to this request. They appreciate the motives which led Captain Nelson to embark in this enterprize and regret the failure of his exertions, but they cannot entertain his claim to be thus compensated by the State.

4. With regard to Captain Nelson's further offer of a fixed payment of Rupees 500 yearly for Siddapoor and Peddachervoo for five years from the close of his free tenure of those villages, the Government think it preferable not to depart from the existing agreement.

5. Authority is granted for the advance of Rupees 3,000 abovementioned being written off to "profit and loss."

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Accountant General.
„ the Civil Paymaster.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Rev: Dept.

Memo:

Captain Nelson's case will be found briefly stated in G.O. 11th July 1863 No 1258.-

I As to the loan of 3,000 Rupees repayment cannot be sought at present - and I apprehend never can be - for Captain Nelson has virtually abandoned his enterprise - The only question is whether it should be remitted unconditionally or whether Captain Nelson should be required to resign the special privileges he received for his experiment - vide note of

† I think it must be. The only condition of repayment attached to the grant was that the enterprize should prove successful. which it certainly has not been.

We may just as well resign his special privileges - but it cannot require him to do so - for it is of much consequence.

of the Honorable Messrs Malby and Eyeroft on memo attached to G.O. 13th February 1864-

II. As to granting the "villages" at a lump assessment - This looks very well - but what are the "villages." I presume the 40 square miles of forest de[illegible] - if so Captain Nelson can keep out Govt and everyone else, whereas his grant gives him a right to only the land he actually reclaims - I would deprecate any departure from the original terms - which Captain Nelson deliberately accepted - Moreover as he is going away, I do not see why Govt should alter the terms -

I would make no more grants - We have had enough of them already -

III. The grant of 300 Acres free of charge on the reclaimers in return for what Captain Nelson had gone through in Kurnool - Captain Nelson offers to pay the 3,000 Rs above mentioned in the sixth year after the 300 Acres are given to him - the arrangement being that Govt are to give him land worth probably 4,500 Rs - and see years hence be repaid 3,000 - he meanwhile retaining his Kurnool grant - I do not see the advantage of this arrangement -

The long and short of the matter is that Captain Nelson deliberately went into a[illegible] enterprise and now failed seeks compensation from Govt who have helped him throughout in that enterprise - as originally described

described by himself.
Whether he should be
compensated by a free
grant on the Hills is
for the Govt. to decide -
but if Govt. decide
in the affirmative
I think, the Kirwood
transaction should be
closed and Captain
Nelson's lease be can-
-celled - he being allowed
however to retain any
or all land reclaimed
by him at a fair assess.
-ment - He clearly has
no claim to retain the
lease and pocket the
compensation - If Govt.
decide in the negative,
matters had better remain
as they are - It will be

certainly not in my opinion

W

to omit

This means
cost in like
proportion

W

Yes - that is cost - N was called
on much of the land as he can do
half assessment and pay it
in 20 years

JP

W

observed that Captain
Nelson names no
particular land on the
Neilgherries and says
nothing of the assess-
-ment thereof.

Orders expected

J D S

Revenue Department

No. 1105.

Proceedings of the Madras Government under date the 29th June 1864.

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Submitting for favorable consideration letter from the Collector of Kurnool on the subject of the advance made to Captain Nelson on account of the villages of Siddapur and Seddacherooo-

(Rec'd entered 30th May 1864, No. 3281.)

Pursuant to the order of Govt. 13th February 1864, No. 270, the Bd. of Revenue report on the subject of the advance of Rs. 3000 made to Captain Nelson in 1854, in furtherance of his Project for reclaiming the lands of

of Siddapoor and Reddacherroo in the Kurnool district -

2. It is clear that on the terms on which this loan was made repayment cannot be sought at present, and the Govt apprehend, never can be, inasmuch as Captain Nelson has virtually abandoned his enterprize -

3. Captain Nelson now applies for a grant ~~however, of observance~~ of 300 Acres of land ~~which he proposes to separate~~ for Sidda and Ridehong cultivation on the Neighbourhood ~~of~~ ~~offers, in this respect~~ ~~effort and suffering~~ ~~ceded, to repay the sum~~ ~~by Kurnool, & granted~~ loan of 3,000 Rupees ~~made to him of 300 acres~~ in the first year of ~~the Neighbourhood free~~ the plantation ~~of charge~~ - The Govt are unable to accede to this request - They appreciate the motives which led Captain Nelson to embark in this enterprise and regret the failure of his exertions, but they cannot entertain his claim to be thus compensated by the State.

4. With regard to Captain Nelson's further offer of a fixed payment of Rs 500 yearly for Siddapoor and Reddacherroo for five years from the close of his free tenure of those villages the Govt think it preferable not to depart from the existing agreement -

5. Authority is granted for the advance of Rs 3,000 above mentioned being written off to

Profit

Profit and Loss.-

1/4 Bd of Rev.- Dec 1st 20 Sumo

3 Acct Sales N

3 Circ Payments N

35

Revenue 1864 Departt.
Pro: of Govt. for June.

No. 1105.

Pro: of the Madras Govt.
of 29th June 1864.

"Authorizing the advance to Capt. Nelson to be written off to "profit and loss."

Nos. 348 & 349.

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28-7-57
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