M.R.O. 14—12,000—27-6-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 3395 — Press ~~Mis.~~

274-275

Dated 15 — 12 — 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 15th December 1866.

No. 274. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st November 1866, No. 8,405.

Read the following papers :—

Letter from the Collector of the Kistna District, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Gudiwadah, 4th October 1866, No. 338.

1. I have the honor to request the instructions of the Board in regard to certain disputes which have arisen in the family of the Nuzid Zemindar, and in which I have been appealed to for advice and assistance by both parties.

2. The Board are aware that the Zemindary of Nuzid is the largest in this district, with an area equal to that of the largest talooks. It pays a Peishcush of 95,000 Rupees; while the collections easily realized by the Zemindar exceed three lacs per annum.

3. The present Zemindar, Subhanadri Apparow, is a man of between fifty and sixty years of age, and has held the Zemindary now for thirty-eight years; he received it after a considerable minority from the hands of Government in the year 1829 free from encumbrance, and with about fourteen lacs of Rupees in Government paper, &c., the result of accumulated profits.

4. The Zemindar has always been careless in the management of his affairs, and very extravagant; and not only have the fourteen lacs of Rupees disappeared, but a debt, roughly estimated at five lacs, has accumulated against the estate. He has lately married, and has become more reckless in his extravagance than ever.

5. He has seven sons, six of whom including the eldest, have remonstrated so strongly with him on the extravagance of his mode of life, as to lead to a quarrel with him.

6. During his temporary absence from home last year, his eldest son assumed the management of the estates, without his father's direct permission, with a view to realizing the dues from the ryots.

7. On the Zemindar's return, he at one time forbad his son's interference; and then again consented to allow him to manage matters; and again issued orders to the subordinate servants not to obey his son's instructions. The result, of course, has been a state of great confusion in the Zemindary. Both have, from time to time, appealed to me; and I have had several interviews both with the father and the eldest son.

8. The Zemindar has objected to the unauthorized interference of his son in the Zemindary affairs; and while professing his intention to make arrangements for the payment of the debt, and proper management of the estate, has, in a manner, acknowledged his incompetence to do so by begging, that the management be assumed by Government, and a due allowance for the expenses of the family being made, the surplus devoted to liquidating the debts.

9. The son, on his part, has stated that the recklessness of his father will soon bring the whole estate to ruin; that his only desire is to be allowed so far to supervise matters as to ensure the due payment of Government Peishcush; and after setting aside a fair sum for the support of the family, (and which he estimates at a lac of Rupees annually), to provide for the remainder being set apart for the liquidation of the debts.

10. I have felt that, with every anxiety to effect a settlement, I was very powerless in a matter of this kind; and that, except as an adviser, I could do nothing. I have pointed out to the son that, however good his intentions, without his father's permission, he could not interfere in the management; and that he was clearly in the wrong in doing so. To the father I have stated, that it was quite foreign to the practice of Government to assume charge of his estate, as proposed by him; that his extravagance could not but lead to the ruin of his estate; and I have urged him very strongly to avail himself of his son's services, as Manager of his estates, strictly limiting his own expenditure to a fixed sum.

11. The eldest son, Naria Apparow, is a young man of much intelligence, and is much respected in the Zemindary; he is in every way qualified to manage the affairs, and would do so, of course, far better than any stranger. His father, on the other hand, from long habits of extravagance and carelessness, is not suited to do so; he is naturally a kindly disposed man, but quite reckless in money matters.

12. I have been informed that the six sons contemplated, as a last resource, appealing to the Civil Courts to protect their rights in the estate, against their father's reckless extravagance; and I have pointed out to the Zemindar the disgrace which would attend the possible attachment of the Zemindary by the Courts.

13. I further urged both parties, if they could not come to an amicable settlement, to submit their differences to the mediation of some mutual friend, rather than proceed to the extreme of public litigation. A copy of a Memorandum that I addressed to both parties is enclosed for the Board's perusal.

14. The result of all has been that both father and son have consulted Nazam-ood-dowla Rustumja Davudallykhan Bahadur, head of the family of the late Nawab of Masulipatam; and under his advice have entered into agreements to abstain from legal proceedings, and have expressed a willingness to abide by any arrangement that may be agreed to by Nazam-ood-dowla Rustumja Davudallykhan Bahadur, and myself.

15. With the strongest desire to aid in the preservation, intact, of the Nuzid Zemindary, and to assist both the father and son, I am in doubt, if I should be justified in accepting the post of mediator, and in passing a decision, which could not probably be enforced, if either of the parties hereafter should refuse to ratify it; and I beg the advice and instructions of the Board before proceeding any further in the matter.

16. The Memorandum I addressed to the Zemindar and his son contains roughly my views on the point at issue, and they were both in possession of it, before they entered into any agreement on the subject.

Enclosure No. 1.—Copy of Memorandum.

Telegram from RAJA SOBHANADRY APPAROW, Bahadur, Nuzid Zemindar, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Masulipatam, 16th October 1866.

If you wish to permit the Collector of Kistna District to interfere in the family disputes between my eldest son and myself, please order a copy of the Collector's report to be given to me, and on receiving my explanation thereto, I request you to pass orders.

1. The Board resolve to submit the above papers for the orders of Government.

2. They would be unwilling to withhold any assistance which may tend to prevent the ruin of so ancient a family.

No. 275. Order thereon, 15th December 1866, No. 3,395.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Government are much concerned to learn that the Nuzid Zemindar has not only spent the large sum which he received with the estate, but has incurred a debt of more than five times his Peishcush, and is pursuing a course of reckless extravagance which has estranged him from his family, and, if persisted in, must end in his and their ruin.

2. The Collector has properly remonstrated with the Zemindar on his conduct, and given him advice which, for his own sake, as well as that of the ancient family of which he is the representative, it is to be hoped, he will have the good sense to follow.

3. The Government do not consider it fitting that the Collector should accept the position of a formal mediator; any decision he might arrive at, in that capacity, could only be enforced by legal proceedings, into which the Government have no desire to be drawn, and might be very embarrassing to the Government if unhappily the sale of the estate should become necessary on account of arrears.

4. The Collector will intimate to the Zemindar the regret with which Government have heard of his improvidence, and their earnest desire that he should adopt immediate measures to restrict his personal expenditure within reasonable limits, and thus avert the serious consequences which must otherwise ensue to himself and his family. They consider that he might properly avail himself of the assistance of his eldest son if offered in a dutiful spirit for this purpose.

5. The Zemindar's sons should at the same time be informed that it is not in the power of Government to interpose effectively, and that if the Collector's advice is not speedily followed, they must adopt such measures as they deem fitting to protect their own interests.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Ed. S. T. Augustin.

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14 Copies to the Bd of Revenue [illegible]

Revenue 1866 Deposit
Pro of Govt for December

No. 3395

Pro of the Madras Govt.
D/15 December 1866

Passing orders on
letter from the Collector
of Kistna regarding the
careless management
of the Estate of Nuzvid
Zemindars.

No. 274 & 275