M.R.O. 14—6450—31-10-35.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1953 Press Mis.

Read

Dated 21—8— 1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st August 1867.

No. 414. Read the following letter from Rajah B. NAGANNAH NAIDOO, Bahadoor, Zemindar of Vulloor, in Kistna District, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Vulloor, 22nd July 1867 :—

I have the honor to submit the accompanying printed Memorials (three in number), with three enclosures, and request that you will be so kind as to lay them before His Lordship the Governor in Council, and obtain permission to forward the same to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India in London.

No. 415. ORDER THEREON, 21st August 1867, No. 1,953.

Separate Revenue, No. 28.
Abkarry.

Ordered that the Memorial received with the foregoing letter be despatched to Home Government, and that the Memorialist be informed of its despatch.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. H. WILKINSON,
Acting Under Secretary to Government.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

To

HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HONORABLE FRANCIS LORD NAPIER, K. T.,

Governor of Fort Saint George.

The humble Petition of RAJAH BOMMADEVERA NAGANNA NAYADU BAHADUR, *Zemindar of Gudur Purganah, Vallur Samut and Vasantavada Mootah and Abkarri Renter, of the Kristna District.*

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH,

That your Petitioner begs to appeal against an order or Inayatnama addressed to him by the Collector of Kristna District on the 15th September last, communicating that the Government in their Proceedings of the 3rd idem declined to grant any remission of the Abkari rent for Fasli 1276, setting forth the following reasons for the refusal.

1st. Because remissions were granted in Faslies 1274 and 1275 to the extent of Rupees 48,634, and 18,000 Rupees respectively in consideration of the serious damages caused by the Cyclone.

2ndly. Because it is difficult to discover whether the renter was a loser or not, whereas the Abkarry Revenues of other Districts have considerably risen.

3rdly. That although this District did suffer from the Cyclone, it has recovered from it to a great extent, and that it enjoys a favorable season with high prices for articles.

4thly. That although the Petitioner was allowed the opportunity of cancelling the Abkarry Case, he declined to do so.

2. The Petitioner here begs to lay before Government a short history of his case, for he is afraid that the real points at issue cannot be clearly understood without it. The Abkary Farm of the Kristna District was put up at auction in May 1864, and owing to competition among the bidders, and a misconception of the future profits, he was induced to bid very high, so much so that the farm was knocked down to him for 5 years, viz., from Fasli 1274 to Fasly 1278 at the rate of Rupees 1,40,500 per year, an amount which exceeds the rent of the Fasli 1273 by Rupees 50,000, the previous rental having been 90,500 Rupees. Three things contributed most seriously to increase the difficulties already created by the disproportionate enhancement of the rent; the first was the memorable event known throughout the world as the Masulipatam Cyclone; the 2nd was the removal of the Native Regiment with families; and the 3rd the introduction of the new Abkarry Act which came into force in January 1865, and by which it became absolutely necessary to draw up cowles and muchilikas on stamps alone.

3. The evils that flowed from the Cyclone have been manifold; but the Petitioner will only touch upon those that materially told upon *his* profits. The first in importance is the depopulation caused by the Cyclone. The Petitioner does not pretend to give an estimate of the loss of human life, for the information which is already before Government will enable them to form a very correct idea of it. He believes however that upwards of 20,000 lives were lost on this occasion. The Petitioner lays great stress upon the depopulation of the Town of Masulipatam, because the portion settled upon the Abkary of the Town which was sub-rented to Mâkarla Venkatasamy Naidoo is very nearly ⅓ of the entire rental amounting to Rupees 44,150. The loss of life was not confined to the Town alone, several villages of the Taluq of Bundur having been literally swept away. The high prices of grains which were partly the result of the Cyclone, and partly of an unfavorable season exercised a very baneful influence upon the sale of liquor and Toddy, because all that the people could earn was barely sufficient for providing themselves with the necessaries of life. The only persons that were benefitted by such a state of things, were the merchants who exported grains to other Districts. The

unprecedented and enormous destruction of Palmyra and date trees, the Toddy drawn from which forms a source of revenue to the Abkarry renter is another evil. The Collector seems to think that although the loss of trees is great, there are enough of them left to supply as much Toddy as is necessary. But the Petitioner begs to contest this fact, because large numbers of trees in several parts of the District which were not blown down by the tempest have been seriously injured, and literally deprived of their productive power. It must be stated here, that among the victims of the Cyclone was a large number of sub-renting Toddy drawers, many of whom had already received advances. Several stills and shops, as well as a large quantity of liquor stored for sale were washed away by the inundation. It is really difficult to estimate exactly the losses that occurred by the Cyclone alone, but nevertheless your Excellency will not fail to infer that they must be very serious.

4. The second reason for soliciting the indulgence already granted, is the removal of the Regiment stationed at Masulipatam, by which the population was reduced by about 4,000 souls (including the families of the Sepoys), a state of things which exists even at present.

5. The third ground for claiming remissions, is the introduction of the Abkarry Act, the enforcement of which entailed an additional expenditure of about 10,000 Rupees for the purchase of Stamps, which, considering the losses as described, nothing in the world would induce the sub-renters to buy for themselves; and this sum was advanced by the Petitioner with the confident hope that the Government would grant an adequate remission.

6. The Petitioner now begs to submit that the grounds under which the Government have declined to grant remission for 1276, and the following Faslies are not cogent. Gratfully acknowledging as he does the consideration shown to him for Faslies 1274 and 1275,* the Petitioner most respectfully asks your Excellency whether the reasons that induced Government, and explained in paras. 2, 3, 4 and 5 of this Petition do exist now or not. If the Abkarry Revenues of other districts have considerably risen, it is because the unfortunate causes that checked the prosperity of this District did not exist there. But it may be argued on the other hand that it is the Town and the Taluq of Bundar alone that suffered from the Cyclone, but the Petitioner begs to reply that the Abkarry of the Town and Bundar forms an important branch of the Revenue, and should realize very nearly 1rd of the rental; and further that the influence of the Cyclone was felt throughout the District. With regard to the 3rd ground of objection urged by Government, viz., that the District has recovered to a great extent from the Cyclone, the Petitioner begs to state that he does not comprehend their meaning, because neither the population has increased in the least degree, nor has the condition of the Palmyra trees improved, whereas the high prices prevailing in it rather tell against the sale of liquor and Toddy than in favor of it. It will certainly take a number of years more before the people can be said to have attained their former condition. The fourth and the last point alluded to by Government now remains to be answered. As soon as the Abkarry farm was knocked down to him in May 1864, the Petitioner entered into agreements with sub-renters. In November of the same year the District was visited by the Cyclone, and the Petitioner who had no idea of his being offered the alternative of cancelling his lease and imagined that the utmost indulgence that might be shown to him would be the reduction of the rent had very nearly completed his engagements with the sub-renters giving large advances to them, when that offer was made so late as on the 22nd March 1865. If the Petitioner had got his lease cancelled, he would certainly have lost not only his outstanding dues and monies advanced, but probably involved himself in a number of civil actions of various kinds with the sub-renters. If the Government had resold the farm, it is most probable that the rent would have gone down lower than what it had been formerly, and the Collector had no doubt this in view when he recommended that a remission should be granted.

7. The Petitioner in conclusion most humbly solicits, that although in his former Petitions he (Petitioner) laid claim to an annual remission of 60,000 Rupees, yet as the Board have thought it proper to recommend that the Abkarry rent should be reduced by ¼ for the rest of the term, that sum at least may be remitted for the ensuing three Faslies, thereby relieving the

* Vide Enclosure A.

majority of the sub-renters, and especially that of the Town of Masulipatam from distress. Should your Excellency still be of opinion that no remission is needed by reason of the District having recovered from the Cyclone as alleged by Government, the Petitioner would take the liberty of requesting that the Government would place the Abkarry of the Masulipatam Town under their own management for 3 or 4 months as a temporary measure, and then determine whether the renter is entitled to a remission or not. If Your Excellency be not disposed to comply with that request, the Petitioner would solicit the favor of causing an examination to be made of the accounts kept by him for the Town and Taluq of Masulipatam, and ascertaining his loss by a reference to them.

8. The Petitioner and his ancestors have always fulfilled their contracts with Government in the various branches of the Commissariat Department,—honestly and faithfully, and have never been found wanting in their duty to Government. Under these circumstances, the Petitioner most earnestly prays that Your Excellency will be graciously pleased to bestow a favorable and mature consideration upon his unfortunate case, and after a kind perusal of the records connected with it do him that justice which the merits of the case call for at Your Excellency's liberal hands. For this act of kindness, your Excellency's Petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray.

RAJAH B. NAGUNNAH NAIDOO, BAHADUR,
Zemindar.

VULLOOR,
5th January 1867.

Presented by his Vakil Kalpataru Venkataramanaya now residing in No. 20, Sami Naick's Street, Chintadripeta, under the authority of the Moktyaruama herein enclosed.

MADRAS,
24th January 1867.

ENCLOSURE A.

JOOBDULUT YAKARAM RAJA BOMMADEVERA NAGANNA NAIDU, BAHADOOR, *Zemindar and Abkarry Renter.*

Agreeably to the recommendations made by the Collector on your representation to the effect that the ⅓rd remission of the Abkarry Revenue granted by Government for Fasli 1274 in consideration of losses caused by the Cyclone, and by the removal of the Regiment was only for one year and praying that some reduction proportionate to these losses might be allowed for the ensuing 4 years on account of the great loss of life and destruction of Palmyra trees both in the Town and Taluq of Bundur, the Board of Revenue having communicated with Government, the latter have in their Proceedings No. 1,803, dated 3rd August 1865, ordered that 18,000 Rupees should be remitted for Fasli 1275 from your rental, and the said 18,000 Rupees have therefore been remitted as follows.

For the Town of Masulipatam	11,271	
For the removal of the Regiment	3,525	
For Villages	3,206	
		18,000

The remaining 1,28,500 shall be paid by you according to the instalments already fixed. You are further requested to allow a proportionate remission in the amount of rent payable to you by the Abkarry Renter of the Town.

(Signed) T. CHASE,
Acting Collector.

BUNDUR,
6th September 1865.

Ans. No. 1834/65
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To

THE RIGHT HONORABLE SIR STRAFFORD NORTHCOTE,

Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India,

London.

The humble Memorial of RAJAH BOMMAH DAVARA NAGUNNA NAIDU BAHADOOR, *Zemindar of Gudur Pergana Valloor Samut, and Vasuntawada Muttah, and Abkarry Contractor of Kistna District, Madras Presidency.*

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH.

That your Memorialist, whilst most gratefully acknowledging the just and considerate kindness evinced by the Madras Government towards him as Abkarry Renter of the Kistna District, in sanctioning certain remissions of Rent for Fuslies 1274 and 1275, on the recommendation of the Collector of that province, as well as of the Board of Revenue, in consideration of the losses that had been sustained, and had still been expected to be sustained by your Memorialist in consequence of the cyclone of 1864 at Masulipatam and other causes, begs to appeal to your Excellency in Council from the G. O. dated 26th February 1867, and the Proceedings of Government, dated 3rd September 1866.

II. The reasons assigned by the Madras Government for declining to grant your Memorialist's application are set forth in the last mentioned Proceedings, and they are these :—

1st. Because remissions were granted in Fuslies 1274 and 1275 to the extent of Rupees 48,634 and 18,000 Rupees respectively, in consideration of the serious damages caused by the cyclone.

2nd. Because it is difficult to discover whether the renter was a loser or not, whereas the Abkarry Revenues of other Districts have considerably risen.

3rd. That although this District did suffer from the Cyclone, it has recovered from it to a great extent, and that it enjoys a favorable season with high prices for articles.

4th. That although the Petitioner was allowed the opportunity of cancelling the Abkarry case, he declined to do so.

III. Your Memorialist begs here to submit a brief history of his case, with the view satisfactorily meeting these objections which appear rather startling when taken by themves. When in May 1864, the abovementioned Abkarry Farm was put up in auction, ur Memorialist relying upon that justice and liberality for which the British Government e been so pre-eminently distinguished, was induced in the midst of the great competition vailing among the bidders to offer for the Farm the high annual rental of Rupees 1,46,500 for five years, from Fusly 1,274 to 78, an amount exceeding by Rupees 50,000 the rental of Fusly 3, which was only Rupees 96,500. In November of the same year, (1864) happened the ible and memorable event known throughout the world as the Masulipatam cyclone, causing of life and property to an extent unknown before in this Presidency. That disastrous it was very soon followed by a very great fall in the consumption of Abkarry, in consence of the removal from the Kistna District of the men of the Native Regiment (with their ilies) who had been stationed in the town of Masulipatam ; and to add to the many serious

difficulties thus created in the way of a due fulfilment of the terms of Memorialist's contract, not long afterwards, that is in January 1865, the new Abkarry Act came into force necessitating the use of stamped paper for all cowles and mutchilikas, and entailing on your Memorialist in addition to large advances made by him to sub-renters, an expenditure of about Rupees 10,000 for the purchase of Stamps, which in consequence of the pauperism of the sub-renters occasioned by the cyclone your Memorialist was necessitated to procure them, and this he did with a firm conviction that the Government would eventually grant him adequate compensation.

IV. With respect to the grounds on which Government were good enough to authorize past remissions out of Memorialist's rental to wit; (1) depopulation of Masulipatam, (2) removal of the Native Infantry Regiment from that station, and (3) extensive destruction of the trees from which the Abkarry Revenue is derived, your Memorialist begs to submit that the town of Bunder so far as population is concerned, has but partially recovered from the effects of the tempest of 1864, and cannot reasonably be expected to do so thoroughly for some time to come; that no Regiment has yet been sent there in place of the one removed, and that great portion of the Palmyra and other trees which escaped being blown down have become almost wholly unproductive from the Sea inundation. If with these facts be coupled one or two other, viz., that among the victims of the cyclone were very many sub-renting Toddy drawers, who had received advances, and that several stills and shops as well as a large quantity of liquor were all washed away, some estimate may be formed of the heavy losses which Your Memorialist has sustained, and is still likely to suffer, while he would here solicit permission to observe, that, had he instead of retaining his lease, availed himself of the alternative left him of cancelling it, notwithstanding he had then, as he has now considerable out-standings, the result must inevitably have been ruinous to him in the extreme; if on the other hand he had adopted this step, and had the Farm consequently been resold, it is more than probable as indeed the Collector himself admits in a letter to the Board, that the rent would have gone down to a much lower figure than even that at which it stood formerly, a noticeable point which it may fairly be presumed that functionary on grounds of public interest had particularly in view, when recommending the grant of remissions.

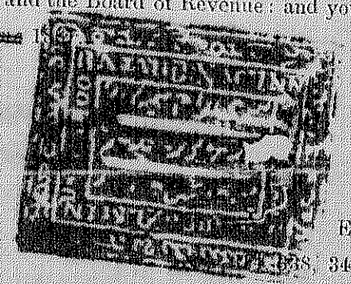
V. In respect of the foregoing representation, Your Memorialist would also crave permission to remark, that although in their Order dated 3rd August 1865, No. 1803 communicated to him by the Collector under date 6th September 1865, the Government simply sanction a remission of Rs. 18,000 for the current Fusly, yet connected as that Order was with the Board's Proceedings, wherein they proposed the continuance of a like remission for the future years of the rental (in accordance with the Collector's suggestion "to grant it year by year," see his letter quoted above) subject to the contingency of a Regiment being again located at Masulipatatam, Your Memorialist was naturally led to infer in the absence more especially of any express intimation to the contrary, that Government approved of the Board's proposal, and hence your Memorialist determined in not cancelling his lease as he certainly would otherwise have done albeit at no small sacrifice. The inference so drawn by him being moreover justified and strengthened by the fact, that in the subsequent Proceedings of the Board of Revenue submitting for favorable consideration the Collector's recommendation of a remission of Rupees 18,000 for Fusly 1276, the Board expressly declare that the same reasons for the solicited indulgence exist.

VI. It must be stated here, with justice to the sub-renter of the town of Masulipatam and Guntoor that the severity of the order declining remissions has been felt by him in all its poignancy more than by the rest. He has sub-rented ¼ of the rental, and it was in his division that the effects of the cylone were most disastrous. His losses have been great, and the whole of his assets has been expended in making good the heavy damages occasioned by causes over which neither himself nor Your Excellency's Memorialist can be supposed to have had any sort of control.

VII. Your Memorialist humbly begs in conclusion to express a hope, that if on a review of the circumstances briefly set forth above, it should appear, as he feels confident it will, that his claims to indulgent consideration are well founded, then Your Excellency in Council may be graciously pleased to call for all the records relating to the subject-matter of his present appeal, and to sanction an extension of remissions as recommended both by the Collector of the Kistna District and the Board of Revenue: and your Memorialist as in duty bound

Will ever pray.

22 July 1867.



Rajah B Nagunnah naidoo
Bahadur Zemindar,

Enclosure A.

Read Nos. 338, 340, 341 and 352 of 1867.

The Government see no reason to modify their Order, refusing Petitioner any further remission on account of his Abkarry Contract.

By Order.

(Signed) G. GROSE,

Under Secretary to Government.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
26th February 1867.

No 1955.

Ordered that the Memorial received with the foregoing Letter be despatched to Home Government, and that the Memorialist be informed of the despatch.

Minute Paper
August 1867

21st August 1867

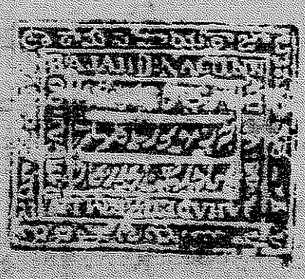
Vellore
22e July 1867

Sir,

Your most Obed. Servt.

P. Jakr. B. Nagumnah Naidoo

Zaladar & Zemindar.



For 4 Clerical / 65 Rec'd
3 Aug - - - / 65 - - - -
3 Sept - - - / 65 - - - -

Reportage to England
Dft 2 Pte Aughs Pl 5 of 1867
Sept: Rec'd

Dft 2 Pte 3 Aughs Pl 5 of 1867
Sept: Rec'd

No 2065.

From Rajah S.
Naganicha Narcolo,
Barbados Zemindar
Vulloor in Tricotma
District.

Dated 22nd July 1867.
Rec'd 3rd Sept.
6 enclosures.

Submitting herewith a memorial in triplicate addressed to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India Praying his claim to remission of Rs Sicca Rent prays for the transmission of the same to the Land authorities with an order

1953 - 2 Aug 67