M.R.O. 14-5,450—22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 335 — Press ~~Mis.~~

97-98

Dated 9 — 2 — 1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 9th February 1867.

No. 97. Read the following letter from R. RAGOONATHA ROW, Deputy Collector, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated 31st January 1867 :—

I beg to submit a printed pamphlet of the testimonials of my father and myself. Amongst the latter, there are extracts from the Proceedings of Government which have been communicated to me. I beg to request that you will be pleased to obtain the sanction of Government for my using them as occasion may require, should they see no objection to comply with my request.

No. 98. ORDER THEREON, 9th February 1867, No. 335.

Miscellaneous.

The Government readily permit Deputy Collector Ragoonatha Row to make full use of the testimony in his favor afforded by the extract from Government Orders printed in the pamphlet accompanying his letter.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary to Government.

To R. Ry. R. Ragoonatha Row.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

THE

Certificates

&c.

OF

RAI, RAaya RAI, VENCAT RAO

AND HIS FAMILY.

TRICHINOPOLY.

PRINTED AT THE CHRONICLE PRESS.

1. VENCATA ROW,

I congratulate you on the high honors which you have obtained from Her Highness the Ranee of Travancore in selecting you for the important situation of Dewan ; Her Highness appears to have been guided by a just appreciation of your merits and upright conduct, and I shall hope, that your future conduct in the discharge of the duties of the important office of Minister of the Travancore state, will justify the favourable opinion which Her Highness has entertained of your ability, zeal, and integrity. I request you will appoint an hour, for my first interview with you to-morrow at the Presidency, at which it is desirable that all the functionaries of the Travancore Sircar now at Quilon, should attend.

QUILON 13th August 1822. (Signed) D. NEWALL,
Resident.

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2. Extracts of letters, to ~~and from~~ the Government of Fort St. George ~~to~~ by Colonel D. Newall, C. B. British Resident of Travancore and Cochin.

~~To Government~~ dated 7 March 1823.

The Dewan conducts the duties of his important office with moderation and ability, to the entire satisfaction of Her Highness the Ranee, to the advantage of the interests of the state, and the general good of the inhabitants of Travancore.

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3. VENCATA ROW,

I have received your letter dated the 27th of last month, and am happy to hear that everything is going on well in Travancore. I am to see your son-in-law to-morrow morning. I rejoice to learn from your letter that there has been a seasonable fall of rain in Travancore. I pray to God to prosper everything connected with that state. Sir Thomas Munro remembers the conversation he had with you in Tanjore, and is fully acquainted with your character and history. I shall be at Coimbatore on the 26th of this month. I hope you and your family continue in good health.

Your's faithfully.

GOVT. GARDENS 3rd June 1823. (Signed) D. NEWALL.

4. To,

The Dewan

of Travancore,

Quilon.

VENCATA ROW,

The statements of Receipts and disbursements of the Travancore Government in the year 998, forwarded to me with your letter of the 20th of last month, is highly satisfactory; reflects much credit on your administration of the affairs of the Country, and warrants a conclusion that your judicious measures have been executed with zeal and attention, by the subordinate servants of the Sirkar, a continuation of such praiseworthy exertions for the interests of Travancore, must secure to you the confidence of the Government, and the gratitude of the Sovereign whom you serve.

Your's faithfully,

TRICHORE 2nd December 1823. (Signed) D. NEWALL,
Resident.

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5. Extracts of Letters to ~~and from~~ the Government of Fort Saint George, to Colonel D. Newall C. B. British Resident of Travancore and Cochin.

~~To Government~~, dated 16th November 1824.

Her Highness at all times expresces the most anxious desire for the improvement of the condition of the inhabitants, these beneficient intentions of Her Highness the Ranee are fully executed by the exertions of Veucata Row the Dewan, whose zeal, and ability in conducting the important affairs committed to his charge are very conspicuous, and I can with confidence affirm that the inhabitants of Travancore of every class and description at present enjoy a protection, tranquillity and happiness, long unknown to them.

To

The Devan

of Travancore,

6. VENCATA ROW,

I have received your letters dated the 20th October accompanied by an account of the Receipts and Disbursements of the Travancore Sirkar in the year 999 and papers in explanation thereof. These accounts shew the actual receipts into the Treasury

to be Rs. 2,86,706 more than the Disbursements of the Sirkar in the last year and what is of much more importance to the welfare and prosperity of Travancore, show that the only arrears due to the Sirkar or on account of Court fees, Kullaul, and merchantile transactions, and a small sum on account of the Edapuell Zemindar, in all amounting to fanams 1,63,675. I request that this balance may be collected with as little delay as possible.

These accounts and the general management of the important trust committed to your charge are highly creditable to you and I shall take an early opportunity of expressing to Her Highness the Ranee my sense of the merits of your administration of the affairs of Travancore.

Yours faithfully

COCHIN 17th November 1866. (Signed) D. NEWALL,
Resident.

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7. Extracts of Letters to and from the Government of Fort, St. George, to Colonel D. Newall, C. B. British Resident of Travancore and Cochin.

From Government dated 26th November 1824.

The Governor in Council has been happy to observe the able manner, in which you state the duties of Vengata Row the Dewan, to be performed.

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8. To Government dated 2nd December 1825,

Vengata Row, the Dewan, by his zeal, ability, integrity and unwearied exertions for the interests of the Sirkar and the welfare of the inhabitants has fully gained my confidence. I consider him a public servant of the first order.

To.

The Dewan

of Travancore,

9. VENCATA ROW,

I have received your letter dated 29th September together with an Account Current of the Receipts and Disbursements of the Travancore Government, for the year 1000 and papers in explanation of that account.

These documents are very satisfactory and highly creditable to the zeal and ability which you have applied to the administration of the affairs of Travancore, these my sentiments, I shall not fail to communicate to Her Highness the Ranee and the Government of Madras.

Yours faithfully

COCHIN 6th December 1825. (Signed) D. NEWALL,

Resident.

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10. Extracts of Letters, ~~to and~~ from the Government of Fort Saint George, to Colonel D. Newall, C. B. British Resident of Travancore and Cochin.

~~From Government~~ dated 30th December 1825.

I am in conclusion directed to state that the Honorable the Governor in Council regards with sentiments of the highest approbation the vigorous and judicious manner in which the affairs of Travancore country continued to be conducted and also, that the very exemplary conduct of the Dewan Vengata Row is observed with much satisfaction.

To.

The Dewan

of Travancore.

11. VENCATA ROW,

I have received your letter dated 23rd ultimo, containing a report of your proceedings &c. during your recent circuit through the Northern Districts of Travancore; the report is highly satisfactory, showing the improved condition of each of the districts, the great dimunition of crime, and the happiness which the general population of the country enjoy under the measures which have been adopted for their protection and benefit; these are the results of your able and vigorous administration, of which you have cause to be proud, and on which I congratulate you, but much remains to be done, and you must not stop half way.

Your's faithfully,

KOTAGHERRY 16th April 1826. (Signed) D. NEWALL

Resident.

To.

The Dewan

of Travancore.

12. VENCATA ROW,

I have received your letter dated 20th October last together with an Account Current of the receipts and disbursements of the Travancore Government in the year 1001 with papers in explanation thereof. It gives me pleasure to observe that the receipts in the year now under report, have exceeded those of the last year by the sum of Rs. 133,145 and that the surplus of the receipts above the expenditure of the Sirkar in the year 1001 amounts to the sum of Rs. 2,61,150.

These results are highly creditable to the zeal and ability which you have applied to the affairs of Travancore, and shall be brought to the favorable notice of Her Highness the Ranee and the Government of Fort St. George.

I remain,

Your's faithfully

COCHIN 20th February 1827 (Signed) D. NEWALL,

Resident.

Extract of a Letter from Colonel D. Newall C.

13 B. President in Travancore and Cochin to His Highness the Raja of Travancore dated 21st April 1827.

It gives me sincere pleasure to learn from your Highness' letter dated 5th Instant, that the arrangements which have been made in the last few years for improving the condition of the inhabitants of Travancore, have met with your Highness' approbation and that your Highness has been so good as to associate my name with those improvements; I can with great truth assure your Highness that from the day of my entering Travancore until the present time, my most anxious desire and endeavour has been to promote the welfare and honor of your Highness' exalted family, and to increase the comfort and happiness of every class of the inhabitants of your Highness' State. In my labors I have derived much assistance from your Highness' Dewan (Vençata Row), than whom a more valuable man or more zealous public servant, cannot be found. He has the welfare of your Highness' family and the interests of the inhabitants of Travancore much at heart; the time appointed for your Highness to take the direct management of the affairs of this interesting country into your own hands, is approaching, I cannot better evince the deep interest which I take and shall continue to take

in the welfare of your Highness and the people of Travancore than by recommending in the most earnest manner, that you should continue Vencata Row in the office of Dewan. Like every person in authority, Vencata Row has enemies, and back-biters, but on minute investigation, I have always found that he was pure and untainted.

(A true Extract)
(Signed) W. MORRISON,
Resident.

To

The Dewan

of Travancore,

14. VENCATA ROW,

I have the pleasure of forwarding to you Extracts of letters addressed by me to Government, together with Extracts from letters received by me from the Honorable The Governor in Council.—I cannot leave Travancore without expressing to you the high sense which I entertain of your merits as a public servant of the Travancore Government.—The high office of Dewan which you have filled with great credit to yourself, and advantage to the interests of Travancore for the last five years, is an office of the greatest delicacy, trust and confidence. The duties of this improtant station have been conducted by you with exemplary zeal, ability and unremitted activity, the whole tenor of your conduct has afforded me entire satisfaction. I hope you may long continue to enjoy good health, and to pursue a career of useful and valuable service to the Travancore State.

I Remain,
Yours very faithfully,
D. NEWALL,
Resident.

ALLEPPIE 1st May 1827.

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15. Extracts of a letter to Venkata Row Dewan, from Colonel Morrison the Resident of Travancore, dated at Quilon 18th February 1828.

It is truly gratifying to learn that while the Revenue accounts of the year have all been adjusted, "that "every fanam lawfully due has been recovered fully and entire-

"ly and so got into the Treasury of the Government also; that "all expences ordinary and extra, are defrayed to the satisfaction "and wishes of the Sovereign and people in the country; that "all religious and charitable institutions are properly maintained; that the public servants and the people on the Pension list "are all regularly paid; and that every encouragement is given "to the cultural and commercial industry;" all of which is highly honorable to your public exertions. And I take occasion to state, notwithstanding the complaints which have been made since I have been in Travancore against some of the Revenue servants, that I see great reason to be well satisfied with the general conduct of that Department which I am sensible is carried on by you with no ordinary ability as well as zeal for the interests of the Sircar.

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16 VENCATA ROW,

On retiring from the high station of Dewan of Travancore which you have held with much benefit to that State for the period of nearly nine years, I think it due to your public services to assure you of my general approbation of your conduct since my arrival as Resident in April 1827. The regularity and efficiency with which the various public departments were conducted, affords the best proof of your abilities, and I have much satisfaction in adding this testimony to the praise already bestowed upon you by the late respected Resident Colonel Newall C. B. at whose recommendation you were appointed by Her Highness the Ranee—whose reign during the minority of His Highness the Rajah, has been marked by so many benefits both to the Government and people of Travancore.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) W. MORISON,
Resident.

---

17. Morrison C. B. late sole Commissioner of Mysore dated 3rd June 1834.

Extract of a Minute by Lieutenant Colonel

In making over to my successor Lieutenant Colonel Cubbon, the accompanying "notes" on Mysore, the materials of which have been collected since my arrival, and intended as the foundation of a report on the state of the country, its Establishments and finances, it is but just to the Sheristadar Vencata Row, to record how greatly I feel myself indebted to the exertions of that officer in collecting and arranging the information contained in these papers, more especially as they relate to the Revenue.

My first acquaintance with Vencata Row, was in Travancore where I found him in the year 1827 filling the high and arduous station of Dewan with great advantage to the interests of that State. The records of the Madras Government bear ample testimony of his merits while he held that office; and I have grounds for considering him the first Native Revenue Servant in this part of India. While I regret therefore that circumstances have not admitted of his experience being made the most of for the benefit of Mysore, I think it my duty to recommend him to my successor as a public servant, whose labors will always be found ready, in promoting the public interests, which I have always found to be his first object,

(Signed) W. MORISON,
Commissioner

(True Copy)
(Signed) D. CHALMERS.
Ag. Secretary.

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18. Extract of a letter from the Officiating Chief Secretary of the Supreme Government to the Commissioner of Mysore, dated Ootacamund the 25th July 1834.

The individual named R. Vencata Row who stands appointed as Head Sheristedar in the office, should be styled Native Assistant to the Commissioner. Of this person His Lordship in Council has heard the highest character from the distinguished officer under whom he has served for several years. The appellation will be highly gratifying to the individual and the distinction will probably have the effect of stimulating others to exert themselves with the like zeal and fidelity in the discharge of their public duties.

Mysore Commissioner's Office,

To M. R. R.

19. R. VENCATA ROW,
N. Assistant to the Commissioner.

Sir,

I have been desired by the Commissioner to acknowledge the receipt of your application to him for leave to visit your native place Combaconum, and to be absent for that purpose, for seven weeks from the date of your departure hence; and to convey to you the Commissioner's sanction to your leave of absence accordingly.

2. In compliance with your request the Commissioner has great pleasure in granting permission to the undermentioned individuals, belonging to his Cutcherry to accompany you, and further to acquaint you that a Military Escort, consisting of a Jemadar and 12 Sowars and 2 Pahras of Barr, has been ordered to attend you and to remain with you until your return.

2 Dufter Goomastas
1 Do. Dufadar
1 Hircarrah
1 Peon of the Commissioner's Establishment
1 Lascar
2 Kutcherry Woolgees.

3. The Commissioner will address letters to the Collectors of Salem, Tanjore and Trichinopoly, requesting them to give the necessary directions to their District officers to afford you every assistance in your progress through their respective Districts.

4. A Rahdaree to the effect proposed by you will be prepared, in order to secure you and your family every attention and assistance you may require in this territory, and the requisite orders will be given to the Treasurer to receive charge of any property you may wish to place under his care, and the Amildar of Bangalore will be directed to take care of the building you occupy and of the property left in it.

I am
Sir
Your obedient Servt.

BANGALORE 20th February 1837. (Signed) A. CLARKE,
Officiating Secretary.

Mysore Commissioner's Office,

20. To.

The Principal Collectors of Salem and Trichinopoly and Collector of Tanjór,

Sir,

Genl. Dept. I have the honor by desire of the Commissioner &c. to acquaint you that R. Vencata Row, Native Assistant to the Commissioner, is about to proceed hence on the 25th Instant, on route to Combaconam, and will pass through the part of your District noted in the * Margin; with an escort

*Stages
Ossoor
Royacotta
Palacode
Adamawa

Cotta
Toppoor
Omaloor
Salem
Noochaway
Namkul
Thottium
Moosery
Srirungam
Covilady
Trivady
Combaccnam

of 25 armed men Horse and Foot, and to solicit the favor of your giving such directions to the Native officers of your District, as will secure to Vencata Row the attention and assistance of which he may stand in need in his journey.

The Commissioner desires me to enclose the copy of the Rahdaree or Purwannah with which the above Native Gentleman has been furnished from this Office.

I, have &c.

BANGALORE 21st February 1837. (signed) A CLARKE,
Offg. Secretary.

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21. VENCATA ROW,

Your general talents, and intimate acquaintance with the affairs of Travancore, point you out to both His Highness the Rajah and myself as the fittest person that could be selected to hold the important office of Dewan. This situation is accordingly offered to you. If you deem proper to accept of it I shall immediately apply for the requisite sanction of the British Government; and I shall have the gratification of knowing that a measure has been adopted, the best calculated to ensure the success of those places we have in view for the improvement of the country and the happiness of the people.

Yours very faithfully,

BOLGHOTTY 14th Novr. 1837. (Signed) J. S. FRASER,

No. 102. Mysore Commissioner's Office.

To

R. VENCATA ROW,
Native Assistant to the Commissioner.

22. Sir,

I am directed by the Commissioner to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, requesting for reasons therein stated he will be pleased to submit to the Government of India your application to be permitted to resign your office in the Commission, and that in the meantime three months leave may be granted to you to proceed to Trevandrum

2 The Commissioner directs me in reply to state that while he will very deeply regret the loss of your valuable services in this office, he desires cordially to congratulate you on the highly flattering testimonial to your character and to the estimation in which your former services to that State are held, conveyed in the invitation which has been given to you by the Sovereign and Resident of Travancore to resume the office of Dewan of that territory.

3 The Commissioner will lose no time in forwarding your application to the Government of India and will take the opportunity so afforded to him of submitting to the Governor General's notice the sense he entertains of the services you have rendered to the Commission during the period you have been attached to it.

4 In the meantime the Commissioner authorizes your proceeding to Trevandrum on three month's leave of absence.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your Most Obedt. Servt.

BANGALORE 10th February 1838. (Signed) A. CLARKE,
Offg. Secretary.

No 21. Mysore Comissioner's Office.

To,
W. H. Macnaghten Esquire.
23. Secretary with the Governor General.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit, for the purpose of being laid before His Lordship the Governor General of India, copy of a letter which I have received from Vencata Row, Native Assistant to the Commissioner, tendering the resignation of his office, and requesting leave of absence for three months, for the purpose of proceeding to Trevandrum, in consequence of the earnest request both of the Rajah and the Resident of Travancore, that he would resume the office of Dewan which he formerly held in that country.

2 I beg to state that I have complied with Vencata Row's application for leave of absence for three months, and informed him that, at the expiration of that period, should he still be desirous of tendering his resignation of the office of Native Assistant, it should then be submitted to the Government of India.

3 Vencata Row was invited to Travancore by the Resident at that Court, in the year 1820, with the approbation of Sir Thomas Munro, to fill the situation of Dewan Peisker, from which he was raised in the year 1822, to the high and responsible office of Dewan, which he continued to hold until particular circumstances, to which it is not necessary more distinctly to advert, occasioned his retirement from it in the month of December 1829.

4 Having been the medium of some late Communications made to Vencata Row by the Raja and the Resident of Travancore and had access to others, I am enabled to state, that, they contain the most honorable and unqualified recognition of the integrity and the value of his former services in that country, during the long period of 10 years, combined with the most urgent and reiterated solicitation that he would consent to resume the appointment of Dewan; and a distinct acknowledgement that they had looked in vain for a person equally qualified in every respect to discharge that great trust.

5 I should fail in my duty if I omitted, on this occasion, to record the deep regret which I feel at parting with this valuable public servant whose character is not less distinguished by unsullied integrity, and public spirit, than by extent of information, unwearied application, soundness of judgment and a degree of forethought which I have never seen equalled by any native of India.

6 Venkata Row was introduced into Mysore, in the office of Sheristadar, at the recommendation of Colonel Morison, who deemed his assistance in collecting and arranging the valuable statistical information contained in that officer's notes on Mysore, worthy of the following acknowledgement, which he recorded on leaving the commission for the Council of India, and with which [cordially subscribing after an acquaintance of nearly four years, to the testmony therein borne to Vencata Rao's merits] I beg leave to conclude this letter.

Minute"

Bangalore June 3rd 1834.

" In making over to my successor Lieutenant " Colonal Cubbon the accompanying notes on Mysore, the " materials of which have been collected since my arrival, and " intended as the foundation of a report on the state of the " Country, its establishments and finances, it is but just to the " Serishtadar Vencata Row to record how greatly I feel myself " indebted to the exertions of that Officer in collecting and " arranging the information contained in these papers, more " especially as they relate to the Revenue.

" My first acquaintance with Vencata Row, " was in Travancore, where I found him in the year 1827 filling " the high and arduous station of Dewan, with great advantage " to the interests of that State. The records of the Madras " Government bear ample testimony of his merits while he " held that office; and I have grounds for considering him the " first Native Revenue servant, in this part of India, while I " regret therefore that circumstances have not admitted of his " experience being made the most of for the benefit of Mysore, " I think it my duty to recommend him to my successor as a " public servant, whose labors will always be found ready in " promoting the public interests which I have always found to " be his first object.

I have the honor to be &c.

(Signed) M. CUBBON,
Commissioner.

BANGALORE 19th February 1838.

(True Copy)

A. CLARKE,
Officiating Secretary.

To,

Lieutenant Colonel M. Cubbon
Commissioner for the Government
of the Territories of His Highness the Rajah of Mysore
Bangalore.

24. Political Dept,

Sir,

I am desired by the Right Honorable the Governor General of India, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 16th Ultimo, submitting copy of a letter from Venkata Row, soliciting three months' leave of absence to proceed to Trevandrum to resume the office of Dewan in that country, and to resign his office of Native Assistant to the Commissioner of Mysore.

2 In reply, I am directed to acquaint you, that the Governor General approved the conditional leave which you have granted to Vencata Row. I am further desired to acquaint you that in consideration of the eminent zeal, ability, and integrity

displayed by that individual while filling the office of your Native Assistant, it has occurred to the Governor General that some mark of the favor of Government should be bestowed upon him, and it is the intention of His Lordship to confer upon him the Title of Rai Raya Rai, provided the Right Honorable the Governor in Council of Fort St. George, to whom the question will be submitted, should be aware of no objection to the grant of the proposed distinction.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obedient Servt.

Camp Deyra Doon,
19th March 1838.

(Signed) W. H. MACNAGHTEN,
Secretary to the Government of India with the Governor General.

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25. DEAR VENCATA ROW,

It gives me the sincerest pleasure to learn that you are now fairly installed in your office as Dewan.

I do not congratulate you on this occasion more than I do Travancore at large.

I am satisfied that the Raja has adopted the most essential measure in his power to secure the future welfare of his people, and that your further proceedings will at once prove of great and lasting advantage to the country, and crown that brilliant reputation which your long and most valuable services have already obtained for you.

Believe me,
Very faithfully your's
(Signed) J. S. FRASER.
30th April 1838.

Government House May 2nd 1838.

26. MY DEAR VENCATA ROW,

I am very glad to see that you are installed in your new situation, and likewise to observe the honorable testimony borne to your services by the Supreme Government. Lord Elphinstone has desired me to express to you his congratulations on the well merited honor you have received by your new title

and his satisfaction in knowing how much the important tract of territory over which you are now called to preside, will benefit by your zeal and talent.

I hope you will let me hear from you sometimes when you have any thing interesting to communicate on public matters. You are now placed at such a distance from any place I am likely to visit, that I fear I shall not soon have the pleasure of meeting you.

Believe me to be
Your's very faithfully
(Signed) WALTER ELLIOT.

M. R. Ry.
R. VENCATA ROW,
Rai Raya Rai
&c. &c. &c.

CIRCULAR.

27. Translation of an order issued by the Commissioner to the Amildars of Talooks on the 18th May 1838.

His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor General having taken into his consideration the zeal, ability and integrity displayed by Venkata Row Native Assistant to the Commissioner for the Government of the Territories of the Rajah of Mysore, has been pleased, as a mark of the favour of the British Government, to confer on him the title of "Rai Raya Rai." The Commissioner is accordingly pleased to direct the publication of the same for the information of the Sircar servants and others in general, and you will accordingly notify the same in your Talook.

True translation
(Signed) A. CLARKE,
Officiating Secretary.

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28. Copy of a letter from His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore to Colonel J. S. Fraser dated 1838.

Dear Sir,

I received your letter accompanying with two letters both from Colonel Cubbon and Venkata Row to your

address, just in the same time I was proposing a letter on the same subject to you.

As the hope which I entertained of deriving considerable benefit by the useful and indefatigable exertions of Venkata Row appears to be frustrated, as it were, at present, by his unwillingness to come hither, I am made extremely uneasy; but at the same time, I beg to observe that the grief which proceeds from the decease of some of his relations, which is caused entirely by the Divine decree, cannot be a sufficient ground for his declining to come to this place, unless the alarms, on anticipating that his character will be traduced by the intrigues of some persons here that possess an inexhaustible spirit in that diabolical vice, has compelled him to do so. Therefore I request that you will do me the favor of communicating to him positively once more to leave off all those suspicions at once and to start from thence without delay.

* * * *

I remain

Trevandrum Friday. (Signed) Your's most faithfully,

S. R.

Political Department.

No. 147.

Extract from Minutes of Consultation
Dated 28th May 1839.

29 Read the following letter from the Commissioner for Mysore.

Here enter 18th May 1829 No. 206.

Resolved that the Principal Collector of Tanjore be requested to cause the order of Government dated the 19th, and published in the official Gazette of the 20th April 1838, conferring upon R. Venkata Row the title of "Rai Raya Rai" to be promulgated in the Vernacular language of the Tanjore District, agreeably to the suggestion of the Commissioner for Mysore, in order that the countrymen of R. Venkata Row, may be made aware of the distinction which has been bestowed upon him by the British Government, and that translations in Persian, Hindustanee, Telugu, Tamil, and Maharatta be published in the Fort St. George Gazette.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) RICHARD CLERK,

Secretary to Government.

To

Rai Rauya Rai R. Vencata Row,

late Dewan of Travancore.

30

Sir,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter under date the 17th Ultimo, transmitting the copy of all correspondence on the subject of your resignation of the office of Dewan of Travancore, and requesting an attestation of my sentiments upon your services and faithful attachment to the British Government.

It gives me great pleasure to state in reply that I entertain the most favorable opinion of you on both these points, and believe that neither your ability nor the fidelity with which you have discharged your public duties towards the British Government, have ever been surpassed by any other Native officer in its service.

With respect to your service in Travancore, as you were in official relation with me there, I am able to assert from my own personal knowledge, that your correct judgment and the extraodinary activity and energy of your character, were of eminent advantage to that Native State; and promised a rapid improvement of its condition, with an increase of its revenues, had circumstances admitted of your remaining there in the office of Dewan.

I have the honor to be

Sir.

Your Most Obedient Servant;

HYDRABAD 3rd August 1840. (Signed) G. S. FRASER.

No. 125, MYSORE Commissioner's Office.

To,

31.

R. HURRY ROW,

Sir,

I have the pleasure to transmit to you copy of a letter from the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, dated the 29th Ultimo, conveying the expression at the deep regret of the Right Honorable the Governor General of India in Council at the death of your late Father the Rai Raaya Rai R. Vencata Row, and of the high sense entertained by the Government of India of his talents and faithful services.

2. It were superfluous on this occasion to dwell upon the high estimation in which your Father was held by myself and my immediate predecessor Major General Morrison, for his eminent services, his rare abilities and still rarer public virtue.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Most Obedient Servant,

BANGALORE 19th August 1843. (Signed) M. CUBBON,

Commissioner,

32.

No. 401 of 1843.

From,

I. THOMASON ESQUIRE.

Secretary to Government of India

To,

MAJORE GENERAL M. CUBBON,

Commissioner in Mysore.

Fort William the 29th July 1842.

Foreign Department.

Sir,

The Governor General in Council has received with deep regret the intelligence conveyed in your letter No. 84 dated 24th Ultimo, of the demise of Rai Rasya Rai R. Vencata Row, and requests that you will offer your condolences to the family, and express to them on behalf of His Lordship in Council, the high sense which the Government of India entertained of the talents and faithful services of the deceased.

I have the honor to be &c..

(Signed) I. THOMASON,

Secretary to Government of India.

Fort William the 29th July 1843.

(True Copy)

(Signed) A. CLARKE,

Secretary.

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33. Extract from a letter of E. B. Powell Esquire dated Thursday ———1848.

I may as well mention that you stand high in my opinion, and that I trust you will yet, stand still higher.

This is to certify that R. Ragoonath Row has been a scholar of the High School for the last three years, and that he has always conducted himself in a praiseworthy manner while belonging to the institution. He leaves the school now solely on account of his domestic affairs, and appears to be most desirous of continuing his studies. He is well acquainted with the following subjects:———Arithmetic; Elements of Geography; English Grammar; the History of England, as far as the reign of Henry 7th; the History of Rome,—the Punic wars, and the twelve Cæsars,—and Euclid book I. He also writes fairly from dictation, and possesses a good knowledge of the Mahratta language

MADRAS High School
9th September 1848.

(Signed) E. B. POWELL

Head Master.

TRIVANDRUM, 29th July 1848.

34. My Dear Hurry Row,

Having duly received your communication of the 9th instant, I have the pleasure to state, with my best thanks for all your kind and respectful expressions, that I still entertain afresh in my memory the very long and *faithful* services of your esteemed Father, and consequently your claim under this Government shall not be escaped out of my memory when it yields a favourable opportunity, as it is not the case just now.

With earnest wishes for the welfare of yourself and family,

I am,

Your's sincerely.

MARTANDA VURMAH

Rajah.

To M.R.R.
Ragoonath
R. ~~Hurry~~ Row,

35. I have known R. Ragoonatha Row for some time. He appears to me to be remarkably intelligent and of an active mind and habits. I have from time to time heard many favorable accounts of him from those connected with the Madras University, and from what I have seen of him and known of his family and property, I hope by and bye to hear that he has taken office under the Government for which I consider him to be peculiarly well qualified,

31st. October 1850

(Signed) G. T. BEAUCHAMP.

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36. This is to certify that R Ragoonatha Row attended the High School for about four years and eight months. During his scholastic career he acquitted himself so much to the satisfaction of the Board, that he had a Government Scholarship,

conferred upon him, and I entertained strong hopes of his eventually securing a Proficient's Certificate. Unfortunately ill health has compelled him to quit the institution and leave his education incomplete. The course of studies pursued by Ragoonatha Row comprised the following subjects.

English Grammar, Geography, Roman and English History, Norton's Rudimentals, a part of Russell's Modern Europe, portions of English Poetry, Arithmetic, Euclid, books 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 11 to proposition 21, Elements of Algebra, Plane Trigonometry, and the elements of Natural Philosophy.

E. B. POWELL

MADRAS High School 1st. November 1850. Head Master.

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37. NUNGAMBAUKUM MADRAS, November 2nd 1850.

I have much pleasure in bearing testimony to the correctness of deportment and intellectual progress made by Regoonatha Row, during his stay in the Madras University. During the last four years he has been a good deal under my guidance and I have no hesitation in saying that his attainments were equal, if not superior, to any in the respective classes through which he passed. Under me, he directed his attention to the elements of Mechanics and Astronomy, Geometry, Algebra, and the principles of English Composition, as well as to the history of modern Europe, and Poetry including Goldsmith's Traveller, Johnson's vanity of Human Wishes, Dodd's beauties of Shakespeare and a variety of other pieces too tedious to mention, and in each and all of these subjects he greatly distinguished himself. I regret exceedingly that he should be under the necessity of now leaving the institution, because I have always considered him as a very superior young man and as likely from his enlightened and liberal sentiments to benefit his countrymen.

I have to add that Ragoonatha Row writes the English language with very great accuracy and that his essays have frequently displayed much general information and no small reflection.

(Signed) ADAM. A. GORDON. A. M.

2nd Master

Madras University.

HYDRABAD March 31st 1851

38. My dear Sir.

As it is a long time since I had the pleasure of hearing from you, I shall be glad to learn what progress you are making in your studies at the Madras High school. In your last letter you mentioned that you had been promoted to the highest Class but one, and I conclude that you have now obtained, or, are very near obtaining the highest, you must try to emulate your Cousin Madava Row, now in the service of the Raja of Travancore at Trevandrum, who is a first rate English scholar and admirably adapted for the situation he now holds, as Instructor to the younger branches of the Rajah's Family.

I trust that the charitable Institutions established at Combaconum by my old and respected friend Venkut Row, continue to be properly maintained and taken care of.

Believe me,

my dear Sir

yours very truly

(Signed) J. S. FRASER.

MADRAS. R. RAGOONATH ROW.

Palace, TRIVANDRUM, 2nd August 1852.

39. MY DEAR HURRY ROW,

I am exceedingly late in acknowledging your most polite letter of the 25th of February last, enclosing for my perusal several papers, which I herewith return, having gone through all of them with much interest, and particularly that letter from the former *Eliah Rajah* of Travancore, which, I am glad to observe, has been so carefully preserved. Bearing, as these several papers do, a most flattering testimony to the abilities and talents of your father, they were almost superfluous where my own personal knowledge has given me so high an opinion of him, and of the valuable services rendered by him at our Court.

Having left you so long perhaps in expectation of a favourable reply, it is with much regret that I have now to

repeat that present circumstances preclude my doing myself the pleasure to comply with your request; not merely because I myself am reluctant to add, in any degree, to the present establishment at a time when the state of the public finances dictates the strictest economy in every branch of expenditure, but on other considerations also, which, as I wish not to prolong this letter, I have directed your worthy cousin T. Madava Row, now so confidentially attached to me, to convey to you at large. But I may add that you may rest assured that I shall never forget your interests so far as to neglect a proper and convenient opportunity whenever it should occur, to do what I can for the heirs of such a distinguished and faithful servant of ours as your father.

My several and varied engagements, private and public, civil and religious, will account for the delay in replying to your letter.

With the best wishes to yourself and family

I am

your sincere well wisher

MARTANDA VURMAH

Rajah.

VULLUM, 23rd November 1854.

0. RAGOONATHA ROW,

I received some days ago your letter of the 10th applying for the present vacancy of translator in the Dufter of this Kutcherry and enclosing some testimonials.

I have delayed any reply, not because I questioned your abilities to discharge the duties very efficiently, but because I little doubted how far your circumstances and your mode of life hitherto, would make you willing to undertake the office you ask for. A servant in a Collector's Cutcherry leads no easy life, has a good deal to do, move about the District a good deal, and is not always his own master.

However, I do not suppose that you would seek the present vacancy unless you are fully prepared to exert yourself to ensure success; and in nominating you to it from to day. I will hope

I am introducing to the Public Service a young man who will keep his Father's example before him and be a credit to me and to himself. You had better come at once to Vullum when I will return your papers.

Your's faithfully,

(Signed) H. FORBES.

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41. Sunnud issued by Mr. Henry Forbes, Collector of Tanjore, to Roobgoonday Ragoonatha Row.

Whereas, you are appointed to the vacant post of a writer in the Huzur Kutcherry, on a salary of 35 Rs. a month from 23rd instant you are hereby required to do duty in the Dufter Kutcherry, under the Head Sheristadar with diligence.

VULLUM, 30th November 1854. (Signed) H. FORBES.

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42. Sunnud issud by Mr. Henry Forbes, Collector of Tanjore to Ragoonatha Row, a writer of the Huzur Kutcherry.

Whereas, you are hereby appointed to act as Huzur Salt Amildar, from 1st of April next, on a salary of 85 Rs. you will present yourself before the Head Assistant Collector and conduct your duties with diligence,

(Signed) H. FORBES.

COMBACONUM on Circuit, 25th March 1856.

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43. Sunnud issued by Mr. Henry Forbes Collector of Tanjore to Ragoonatha Row Acting Salt Amildar.

You are hereby confirmed in your acting appointment.

TRANQUEBAR, 12th May 1856. (Signed) H. FORBES.

C

44. DUPLICATE.

We hereby certify that R. Ragoonatha Row was examined at the yearly examination held at Combaconum in the month of February 1856, and that we consider him duly qualified from his knowledge of the Native languages and of the Laws and Rules of practice, for the guidance of the Courts of Civil Justice, to hold the office of Pleader in the Sudr Court or in the Court of a Zillah Judge, Sub Judge or Principal Sudr Ameen or Sudr Ameen.

COMBACONUM 21st April 1856. G. T. BEAUCHAMP,

W. M. CADELL,

L C. INNES,

Members.

Name of Candidate.	Name of his father.	Age.	Place of residence.
R. Ragoonatha Row.	Rai Rai Rai R. Vencut Row.	25	Combaconum.

45. No. 58. NEGAPATAM 18th August 1865.

From

St. L. M. Grenfell Esquire,

Head Assistant Collector of

Tanjore.

To

L. W. Cherry Esquire,

Ag. Collector of

Tanjore.

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose herewith a letter of resignation from Ragoonatha Row Amildar of my Cutcherry of his appointment in my office. I have great pleasure in bearing testimony to the zeal and fidelity as well as more than usual intelligence with which he has invariably discharged his duties.

He is desirous of leaving for Combaconum with as little delay as possible, but has consented at my request to await my convenience ; and I would venture to suggest that it would be a very good arrangement if his successor were sent here at once, and were to serve in the office with Ragoonatha Row for at least a fortnight drawing the pay of his previous situation.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your most Obedient Servant

(Signed) St. L. M. GRENFELL,

Head Assistant Collector

(A True Copy).

(Signed) St. L. M. GRENFELL,

Head Assistant Collector.

46 No. 865. TANJORE 20th September 1856.

To,

St. L. M. Grenfell Esquire,

Head Assistant Collector of

Tanjore.

Sir,

With reference to the latter part of the 2nd Para of your letter of the 18th Ultimo, I have the honor to inform you that orders have been sent to the Cash keeper to strike off the

Accounts, the name of Ragoonatha Row, and to include that of Mr. John Rose from the 1st October next, till which date Ragoonath Row can remain in the office according to your suggestion.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient servant.

(Signed) L. M. CHERRY,

Acting Collector.

(A True copy).

St. L. M. GRENFELL,

Head Asistant Collector.

MADRAS, 9th September 1856

47. RAGOONATHA ROW,

I return you Mr. Innes' note. I shall be very sorry if in your attempt to change your office you should be left unprovide for—and I do not anticipate any such result. I am sorry for your decision, as I think you are fitted for a more active life and more responsible duties, than fall to the lot of an ordinary English Writer.

I dare say you will copy letters very well, but what then ?

Your's

(Signed) H. FORBES.

No. 420.

48. COMBACONUM, 27th August 1856.

Sir,

With reference to extract from the minutes of consultation dated 13th August 1856, (with copy of which I have been furnished by the Civil Court) approving of the instructions

issued by the Sudr. Court, having reference to the content to which offices in the District are monopolized by one family, and prohibiting the employment of any more of its members in the Judicial Service of this District, I have the honor to make the following representation and to solicit the Government to make an exception in favour of a distinctly related member of the family named Ragoonatha Row.

Previous to the receipt of the instructions of Government above alluded to and in ignorance of the relationship which exists between his and the respectable family which Government has been pleased to exclude from more extended employment in the Judicial Service of this Zillah, I had offered this young man who was educated at the Madras University the situation of Head Writer in this Court.

I must premise that some time ago when the Head Writer's Office became vacant he made an application for the appointment, but as I had temporarily appointed another person on probation, I declined entertaining him. He subsequently passed a most excellent examination for a Vakeelship, showing a very perfect knowledge of the Law of Procedure of the Presidency and of the Hindoo and Mahomedan Laws and obtained a diploma. He had, up to that time, been employed on a small salary in the Cutcherry of the Collector Mr. Forbes, who soon afterwards appointed him to the office of Salt Amildar at Negapatam on the pay of 85 Rs. Mr. Forbes informed me that Ragoonatha Row who is a landed proprietor in the District had, notwithstanding the position which he holds in that respect, behaved with the most perfect propriety while on his former small salary and that his conduct had given him great satisfaction. Finding that the person whom I appointed on probation as Head Writer did not answer my expectations, I invite Ragoonatha Row, in the early part of this month to exchange his present office of Amildar to that of Head Writer which, knowing his desire to enter the Judicial Service and the responsible and expensive nature of his present office, I thought he might not be unwilling to do notwithstanding that the pay of the office which I offered him was 15 Rs. less than that which he had as Amildar. On this point I found I had judged rightly. He informed me that the constant travelling incident to the office of Amildar and the expences thereby entailed the insufficiency of the salary (which until lately was 100 Rs.) to defray the expenses to which he was necessarily put to enable him to do his work efficiently, the harassing nature of his duties, the distance at which he was from his family, and other reason of a domestic nature, induced him to accept my offer which he trusted would lead to his promotion in the Judicial Service.

This Court has been long clogged with most inefficient subordinates, and it has been my desire on any vacancy occurring to secure for appointment to it those whose abilities hvae been well proved, and it was with this object that I made the offer to Ragoonatha Row.

The relationship which he holds to the family of Kristna Row is, as far as I can learn, the following. His brother's daughter is married to the daughter's son of the Combaconum Moonsiff and his uncle's daughter is married to the son of the Puttucottah Moonsiff.

It will be apparent to Government therefore that the relationship is not very close; at the same time as it exists to a certain extent, I think it right after the receipt of the Minutes of Consultation to make this reference to Government requesting that exceptions may be made in this case feeling as I do that his abilities, industry, and independence of character ought not to be lost to the Judicial Service of this Zillah, where alone he is known and where alone therefore he can count upon his qualifications bringing him into notice and securing him the advancement to which he naturally and deservedly looks.

I have the honor &c.

(Signed) L. C, INNES.

Sub Judge,

From

L. C. INNES ESQUIRE

To

Chief Secretary to Government,

Judicial Department.

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49. No. 1226.

To,

The Registrar to the Sudr Udalut

Fort St. George,

Sir,

1. I have the honor earnestly to recommend the accompanying application from the Sub Judge to the favorable consideration of the Court of Sudr Udalut.

2 Ragoonada Row, for whose appointment as Head Writer to the Sub Court Mr. Innes requests sanction, is now Sait Amildar and stands fourteenth on the list of connections employed in the Revenue Department in the return submitted by the District Moonsiff of Puttoocottah which was forwarded from this office on the 12th June 1856.

3. He was one of the first very few men of family and property in the District who availed themselves of the opportunities of gaining a good education afforded by the Madras University. That he has not thrown away those opportunities is proved by the fact that in the examination for the office of District Moonsiff and Pleader held here in February last, he was one of the 3 who out of upwards of 30 passed and was second to Moottoosawmy Iyen a proficient of the University, a Government Prizeman, and now a Deputy Inspector of Schools; as well as by the responsible post which he has attained in the Revenue Department.

4. I cannot but feel that it will be a great discouragement to him to find himself excluded from employment in the Judicial Department in his native District which has been from the first his ambition, simply because his brother's daughter happens to be married to the grand-son of the Puttoocotah Moonsiff, by a daughter now dead, both being mere children, whilst I think that his being appointed to a post which he has publicly established a high claim to, is calculated to be a stimulus to others.

5. I have known this young man for 9 or 10 years and should greatly regret to find that one so likely to be useful in the Judicial Department in this District as I consider him, is to be put altogether aside, by reason of the alliance above referred to.

6. I have been given to understand that the vacancy caused by his resignation of his present post in anticipation of becoming Head Writer in the Sub Court was filled up 3 days before. Mr. Innes informed the Acting Collector that he had doubts as to whether Ragoonatha Row could be transferred to the Judicial Department, and that there is a difficulty in finding an equivalent post for him in the Revenue Department, a result which I take blame to myself, for as I fear that it is partly owing to my not having furnished Mr. Innes with a copy of the return of the District Moonsiff of Puttoocottah when communicating the order of the Sudr Udalut under date the 19th July 1856 to him, and if it may be permitted to refer to personal feelings in

such a matter I would express an earnest hope that I may be spared the mortification of feeling that I have marred the prospects of one whom I believed to be most worthy of advancement.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your most Obedient Servant

(Signed) G. T. BEAUCHAMP,

Civil Judge.

(True Copy)

COMBACONUM, 10th Septr. 1856. G. T. BEAUCHAMP,

Civil Judge.

To

The Chief Secretary to Government.

Sir,

I have the honor by direction of the Judges of the Court of Sudder Udalut to forward copies of letters from the Civil and Session and Sub Judges of Combaconam relative to the appointment of Ragoonath Row, Salt Amildar in the Revenue Department, as Head Writer in the Sub Court.

The Court of Sudder Udalut observed that the connection of Ragoonath Row to the Moonsiff of Puttukotta is extremely distant and considering the superior abilities and merits testified to by Mr. Beauchamp, are of opinion that an exception in his favor might be made without disadvantage to the public service and they therefore beg to recommend for the sanction of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, the appointment of Ragoonath Row to the situation of Head Writer in the Sub Court of Combaconam Judicial Department.

No 112.

Extracts from the Minutes of Consultation dated 13th Octr. 1856.

Read the following letter from the Registrar of the Suddar Udalut.

(Here enter 31st October 1856.)

The Government authorize the appointment of Ragoonath Row to be Head Writer in the Sub Court of Combaconam under the circumstances explained.

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52. I feel that it is due to Ragoonath Row to certify my high appreciation of his services in the Court since he took up in it the office of Head Writer.

He has much of method which (combined with shrewdness, industry and knowledge of the procedure of the Courts) has been of considerable assistance to me in putting and keeping in order certain departments of the Court duties that were previous to his employment in a most unsatisfactory state. I have formed a high opinion of his straight forwardness of character. It is right to observe that though his particular office implies a superintendence of merely the correspondence department, the employment of the Sheristadar on other duties has enabled me to avail myself of the services of Ragoonath Row, in the superintendence likewise of those duties connected with the Civil procedure of the Court which usually fall to the Sheristadar. In this respect he has acquitted himself to my entire satisfaction.

He undertook these extra duties voluntarily and has conducted them with a zeal and ability that have been of great advantage to the Court. It was found necessary since his taking up the office of Head Writer on 21st October 1856, to re-arrange the distribution of work of the subordinate Ministerial officers, and it is in a great measure owing to his tact and management that the changes made have proved satisfactory to all concerned.

(Signed) L. C. INNES,

Sub Judge.

COMACONUM 17th February 1857.

PRESIDENCY COLLEGE 20th May 1857.

53. MY DEAR RAGOONATHA ROW,

I received your letter the other day and was happy to hear that you are well and actively engaged in the service of Government. I trust that you will reap the reward of your studies and that I shall see you, before I terminate my career in the

Educational Department, a Sudder Ameen dispensing even handed justice to your country men. I am glad to hear that Hurry Row and his family are well and beg of you to make my compliments to him,

* * * *

With best wishes for your success in life.

Believe me to be,

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) ADAM A. GORDON.

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54. RAGOONATHA ROW,

Will you accept the Principal Sudr. Ameenship at Tranquebar salary 60 Rs. Your answer will in no way prejudice your claims hereafter.

(Signed) G. T. BEAUCHAMP.

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55. RAGOONATHA ROW,

I am desirous of giving you some token of my appreciation of your services in the Court during the past year and would wish to procure you a handsome copy of the Bible in English, if that would be acceptable to you ; I believe you to be above any religious prejudice against reading this book, and independently of the value attachable to it on doctrinal grounds, it is written (particularly in the prophetic books) in the most exquisite English that ever issued from lips or pen ; and though in some respects antiquated in phraseology, has been the well from which all the best English Prose Writers since the reformation, have drawn their language largely. Should it be agreeable to you to have a Bible, I will at once send for one.

Kindly let me know.

Truly yours

COMBACONUM, 12th January 1858. (Signed) L. C. INNES.

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56. The Register already shows how high a value has been attached by the Sub Judge to the services of Ragoonatha Row, who is now about to quit this Court.

Had it not been for his undertaking, and that most efficiently, some of the more important duties of the Sheristadar, the work of the Court which had fallen considerably into arrears would have become much confused and the labor at all times great, had been indefinitely increased whereas by his assistance it has been much diminished.

It is likewise due to him to say that his tact and management have mainly contributed to the harmonious working of the Court in all its parts.

8th June 1858. (Signed) L. C. INNES,

Sub Judge.

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57. RAGOONATHA ROW,

Mr. Beauchamp has desired me to say that he should like to appoint you Sheristadar of his Court if you are willing to accept that post. I told him, I thought you would not hesitate to accept it at once. Let me know when I come to Court.

Your's faithfully,

21st October 1858. (Signed) L. C. INNES.

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58. Extracts of the Proceedings of Sudder Udalut under date the 15th November 1858.

R. Ragoonatha Row to act as District Moonsiff of Valungaman.

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59. In return to the within Precept and Extract from the Proceedings of the Court of Sudder Udalut under date the 11th instant, the Civil Judge has the honor to report as follows.

R. Ragoonatha Row was one of the first young men of family and property in the District to avail himself of the advantages afforded by the Madras University. That he did not throw away the opportunities there offered to him is shown by the rapidity of his rise in the Revenue Department in which Mr. H. Forbes promoted him in less than 16 months to be Amildar, the salary of which office was Rs. 85 and thus placed him at the head

of the office of the Head Assistant who had the Revenue work of 2 Talooks, the Magisterial work of 3 Taluqs with the Salt, Sayer, and Sea Customs Departments.

In March 1856, he was one of the 3 who out of 33 candidates obtained a District Munsiff and Pleader's Certificate, the first on the list being Mootoosamy Iyer, who was a first Class Proficient and a Government prizeman. In September 1856, he resigned his post in the Revenue Department to take up the Head Writership in the Sub Court which had been offered to him by Mr. Innes who put the management of the most important of the Sheristadar's duties into his hands. The Certificate given by Mr. Innes on quitting the Court to R. Ragoonatha Row, is enlcosed.

In June 1858, he was made Sheristadar of the Civil Court and from the first conducted the business of the office in the most efficient manner, and the Civil Judge considers him from his position, circumstances, education and thorough business habits to possess an unusual qualification for a District Moonsiff.

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50. REVENUE DEPARTMENT. FORT SAINT GEORGE,

26th March 1859. No. 39.

From

J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq.,

Secretary to the Government of Fort St. George.

To

RAGOONATHA ROW,

Sir,

60. I have the honor to inform you that the Right Honorable the Governor in Council has been pleased to appoint you Deputy Collector and Magistrate of the Fourth Class and to post you for Tanjore.

I have the honor to be,

51. Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

J. D. BOURDILLON,

Secretary to Government.

OOTACAMUND 16th April 1859.

61. My young friend.

I have had the pleasure to receive your letter of the 8th Instant apprizing me of your promotion to your present honorable situation, and offer you my congratulations. You have now a fine field before you at your time of life and I heartly wish you prosperity.

Believe me

your's very truly

(Signed) R. BUDD.

Major General.

M. R. R.

R. RAGOONATH ROW,

Combaconum.

IN CON. 31ST MAY 1859, No. 2471.

62. From,

W. M. CADELL, Esq., Collector of TANJORE,

dated Tranquebar, 28th May 1859, No. 116.

* * * *

3. I take this opportunity also of stating that pending the receipt of the Board's instructions and being unable to spare any of the Covenanted Officeres of the District, I nominated Ragoonada Row to the duty of taking up and purchasing, on behalf of Government, the lands required by the Great Southern of India Railway: this is a duty for which R. Ragoonada Row, is peculiarly fitted; and should the Board see no objection thereto, I beg to be permitted to employ him on this duty till the whole of the land required has been purchased and finally made over.

4. The Board are aware that the land through which the proposed line of Railway runs is very valuable and divided amongst a large number of Meerassidars. I conceive there-

fore that it is of importance this duty should be assigned to an Officer of weight and experience and to one also who is practically acquainted with the various tenures under which land is held and also the value thereof in different localities.

(True Copy)

W. M. CADELL,
Collector.

TRICHINOPOLY. 1st June 1859.

To

R. RAGOONATHA ROW,
Deputy Collector.

63. * * * *

I was very happy to see that Government had conferred upon you an appointment for which by your talents and education, I feel certain you are well qualified.

Believe me,
Your's very sincerely,
(Signed) J. TYREMAN.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

64. Read the following letter from R. Ragunàtha Row, Uncovenanted Deputy Collector Tanjore.

Appends a statement shewing the Talooks of his District in which he possesses landed property, and requests that if the Government be of opinion that he should not hold any appointment in that District, he may be transferred to Trichinopoly. (Here enter 3rd April 1859.)

ORDER THEREON 7th June 1859, No. 759.

Believing Ragoonatha Row to be an honorable trustworthy man, the Governor in Council resolves that he shall be employed in his own District (Tanjore); and His Excellency trusts that this confidence will be an additional motive to him, not to abuse to his private advantage any of the powers confided to him.

This resolution will be communicated to Ragoonatha Row, and to the board of Revenue for their information.

(True Extract.)

J. D. BOURDILLON,
Secretary to Govt.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

65. *PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.*

Dated 2nd June 1860, No. 190

1. The services of a special Officer are necessary for the purpose of settling the price of the land required by the Irrigation Company in Kurnool and by the North West Railway Company in North Arcot, and of making over the land to the Officers of those Companies respectively. The Government resolve to employ on this duty Deputy Collector' Ragoonath Row, who performed the same service, with marked ability and success, in the case of the Negapatam and Tanjore Railway.

2. Ragoonath Row will be instructed to proceed to the scene of his new duties with as little delay as possible. He will go first to Kurnool; and having completed the work there, he will then proceed to North Arcot.

3. The Collectors of the two Districts concerned will be instructed to make arrangements to enable Ragoonath Row, to draw money from time to time as he requires it, for the purpose of paying compensation; so that there may be no delay whatever in the payment, but that the compensation may in every case be paid as soon as its amount is determined.

4. Ragoonath Row, will submit accounts of his operations to the Collector of the District, as he did in Tanjore.

5. Ragoonath Row, will be promoted from the 4th to the 3rd class of Deputy Collector; and, while employed on this service, so far from his own home and District, he will draw batta and travelling allowance at the same rates as the Deputy Collectors employed under the Inam Commissioner.

(True Extract.)

J. D. BOURDILLON

Secretary to Government.

Letter to the Right Honorable Sir Charles Trevelyan, K. C. B. on the Land Tenure of Tanjore: shewing also that the Merassi Right in the land is vested in the Merassidar and not in the sovereign.

To.

THE RIGHT HONORABLE,

SIR CHARLES TREVELYAN K. C. B.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.

1. When I had the honor of waiting upon your Excellency at Combaconum, your Excellency was pleased to inform me that it was your intention to introduce in the District of Tanjore a settlement by which landed property might be rendered secure, interference of Government Servants with the Merassidars avoided, and no just opportunity for augmenting the Government Revenues lost. You further commanded me to offer my suggestion on the subject to the Collector Mr. Cadell.

2. Having studied the different tenures prevalent in India, and already formed my opinions as to the settlement that would best suit the existing circumstances, I beg to take this opportunity of respectfully submitting to your Excellency's consideration the details of my proposed settlement.

3. Before entering however upon the subject, I think I must say a few words about "Meerassi" or the ownership of the land, in order that I may be properly understood in the use of the word throughout this paper.

4. Who is proprietor of the soil, the Sovereign or the Meerassidar, was a question that for a long time taxed the skill of eminent writers on India, but it has at last been set at rest by the following authorities, which show that the Meerasidar is the sole proprietor of the soil, and not the Sovereign.

Hindu Law Menu, &c.

5. "Cultivated land is the property of him who cut away the wood, or who first cleared and tilled it."

"Land and slaves employed in the cultivation of it, a man shall neither give away nor sell, even though he has acquired them himself unless he convene all his sons."

6. "For four months the Magistrate shall not collect tribute from the subjects, but shall give them free agency and endeavour by promoting their satisfaction and content to cause them to cultivate and improve *their* lands. During the remaining 8 months, he shall collect the settled yearly tribute.—" Code of Gentoo Law by Halhed, Page 58.

Hindu Practice.

7. This theory of proprietorship was always acknowledged and enforced by the Hindu sovereigns.

A. D. Campbell, Esq.

8. "The Native Governments have invariably upheld the Meerassi Right, even when they created Zemindars." (Vide a Paper on the land Revenue of India by A. D. Campbell, Esq.)

9. This fact can be clearly proved from the old records which show that whenever the Rajahs wanted to grant to charitable purposes, not only their Sircar share of the produce, but the right to the soil also, they invariably bought the latter of the Merassidars.

Captain Robertson.

10. Captain Rorbertson states that even the Peshwa, the Maratta autocrat, once purchased this right to the soil of the Merassidars.

G. Campbell, Esq.

11. George Campbell, Esq., observes that the Village Communities found in the North and South of India assume and possess the strongest proprietory right the soil of which they are not to be dispossessed nor have ever been by any Native Government.

12. Mr. A. F. Tytler plainly tells us that the Merassidars, under every former Government, whether Hindoo or Musselman, have always been esteemed the very soul of the estate; their rights will be found to have been respected under every arrangement of the Native Prince however arbitrary or capricious in other respects.

A. F. Tytler, Esp.

13. The Honorable Walter Elliot in his Minute on the Enam Commission confirms this position, observing that the "existence of such right can be proved not only from the privileges still claimed by the Merassidars which we have used our best endeavours to cancel and destroy, but from numerous ancient Grants of land which record that even the *Sovereign* when desiring to appropriate a piece of land permanently for the site of a temple or other building, purchased it for so much money from the inhabitants."

Walter Elliot, Esq.

14. It is often alleged that under the Mahomedan Law the King owns the soil, that the Mahomedan Sovereigns of India fully enforced that law, and the British Government, as successors to them, have inherited the right to the soil.

The Mahomedan Law.

15. This appears to me to be a fallacy; for it is stated in Page 133 Vol. I. of Wilk's Mysore, that according to the Mahomedan Law, "Inheritance is annexed to property, and he who has the tribute from the land has no property in the land. Hence it is known that the king has no right to grant the land which pays tribute, but that he may grant the tribute arising from it."

Modena Shauhi Rauz.

16. Sir William Jones says that "nothing can be more certain than that land rents and goods are, in the language of all Mahomeden Lawyers, property alike alienable and inheritable."

Sir W. Jones.

17. Mr. Rickards observes that "In the appendix to Rouse's Dissertation of the landed property of Bengal, a translation is given of two Firmanus by the Emperor Aurengzebe, addressed to provincial Devans. In those the proprietory right of Individuals to lauded estates, is repeatedly mentioned; in one instance the right of a proprietor even to sell his land is adverted to."

Mahomedan Practice. —Rickards.

18. Mr. George Campbell, the author above quoted, adds his testimony to the fact that the Mahomedan rulers respected the Meerassi Rights. For he states in his Modern India that Malik Amber, Minister of the great Mogul, revived and confirmed the Merassi tenures.

19. I beg to add that the British Government and British authors have also recognized and respected the right of Merassidar to the soil, as will be seen from the following authorities.

20. The supreme court of Madras recognized without reserve the proprietory right of the Merassidars to the soil in a decision passed by them on the 25th September 1806.

Supreme Court of Madras.

21. "The Governor in Council proposes that the Ryotwary Settlement should not be attended with any infraction of the rights of Merassidars or other in the soil."

Madras Government 16th December 1817.

22. "It is particularly necessary to caution the local Revenue officers against any infraction of individual rights, which the Board observe that it is the particular desire of the Honorable the Court of Directors to uphold."

Board of Revenue 5th January 1818.

"In Tanjur, Merassi right remained universal throughout the province and continued a very valuable property."

23. The Marquis of Hastings remarked that the rights of the former cultivating proprietors had been suffered by the Regulations to pass away sub silentio.

Marquis of Hastings.

24. "The only proprietors, generally speaking, are the village Zemindars or Hiswahdars (Merassidars). The pretensions of all others are prima faciæ doubtful."

Sir C. Metcalf.

25. "These people," the village communities, to be found in the extreme South of India, are generally regarded as absolute proprietors of the soil, and are admitted whereever they exist to have an hereditable and *transferable* interest in it."

Mounstuart Elphinstone.

26. He is quoted by Mr. Dykes as having said, "I wish to see the usages of each country or province adopted as the basis of our Revenue System, and to protect landed property as we find it."

Sir Thomas Munro.

27. "It is impossible that I should sit in a Civil Court and daily have causes brought before me in which it appears that the unhappy ryots still cling to their property, still in their necessities dispose of the property by sale, mortgage and other methods,—it is impossible that I should see this, and yet believe that in this they have no right."

Mr. Tytler.

"We too, when we took possession of the country, promised most solemnly to protect them (Meerassidars) and for a long time we did support them, as the proprietors of the land.

They daily sell the proprietory right, and call it selling their lands.

If we preserve these rights, we have nothing to fear."

28. "In England, a proprietor of land who farms it out to another, is generally supposed to receive as rent, a value equal to about one-third of the gross produce; this proportion will vary in different countries according to circumstances; but whatever it may be, the portion of it which remains, after the payment of the demands of the public, may safely be described as the Proprietor's share of the produce of his own land: that which remains to him, after defraying all public taxes, and all charges of management. Wherever we can find this share, and the person entitled to receive it, him we may, without the risk of error, consider as the proprietor; and if this right has descended to him by fixed rules from his ancestors, as the hereditary proprietor. Propriety may be limitted by many other conditions; but "dominion so far absolute as to exclude all claims, excepting those of community which protects it," conveys a general idea of the most perfect kind of property that is consistent with the restrictions incident to a regulated Society: always supposing, in the case of land, the existence of the proprietor's share which have been described. There is perhaps no single criterion by which the existence of such share is so distinctly ascertained as by the fact of of land being saleable. When unoccupied land is abundant (as it is in most parts of India,) and all lands are taxed in proportion to

Wilk's Mysore.

their value, we do not hear of men purchasing the privilege to become tenants; to obtain that which is open to all, and even court the acceptance of all: men do not give a valuable consideration for a thing of no value; the fact of purchase shews that there is something to sell, that there is a Proprietor's share. If the demand of Government become so heavy as to leave no such share, the Sovereign may then be named the proprietor, or the usurper, or any other more imposing or more gentle term which eastern courtesy shall invent. It is plain that the former proprietor is reduced to the condition of a tenant; he may cling for a time to the possession of his fathers, and this attachment may survive the existence of that which created it: but he is in effect no longer a proprietor of land, it is no longer saleable; there is no Proprietor's share, the value and the property have ceased together; and there is no longer a question about exclusive dominion, because no person will contend for that to which no value is attached.

Before dismissing this branch of the subject, it is worthy of remark, that according to the Roman lawyers the power of alienating land was the criterion of property; posession without such power being described as merely the usufruct. The inference appears to be irresistible, that the fact of land being saleable ascertains the existence of property, and that the right to sell identifies the proprietor."

29. "The great difference between the lands in these two (Canara and Malabar) provinces is, that, here it (the proprietory right in the soil) is vested in individuals, there in communities."

Mr. Thackeray

30. "A fourth form of joint reponsibility found to exist in India is where each individual is landlord of a small estate, but has a joint responsibility in discharging the Government assessment, and a joint interest in the ownership of waste or lapsed lands."

Examination of the Principles and Policy of the Government of British India.

31. "Merassi right to land exists in Canara, Malabar, North Arcot, South Arcot, Chingleput, Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Dindigal, Madura, Ramnad and Tinnevelly."

Mr. Hodgson.

32. "The old Hindoos most assuredly were absolute proprietors of their land, though they called their sovereigns Lords of the Earth."

Sir W. Jones.

33. "In the Districts to the Southward of this presidency, the Merassi Tenure has from time immemorial been transferable by sale, gift or otherwise. It is universally the case in Tanjore.

A. D. Campbell, Esq.,

The Zemindar possesses a valuable and often hereditary contract interest in the land revenue of the state, the collection of which alone was thus transferred to him, but he possesses no right whatever in the *soil* itself, which subject, to the payment of that revenue, was held in fields exclusively by the cultivators.

At Madras, indeed, the new possessor of the Zemindary, except when he might be also the head of the village, or one of its Merassidars, had in fact not a single field to sell. Every field there, had, where saleable at all, immemorially been sold by the Merassidars who are the owners of the soil.

The Courts at Madras have generally supported the right of the cultivator to the soil. "

"The actual immemorial sale of Merassi fields by the cultivators exposed the absurdity and falsity of the Regulation theory (that the soil belonged to Government who made the right over to the Zemindars) and it has been, only in spite of the local code, that the same rights have been generally preserved from destruction. "

Vide As: No. 11-1843 on the Sub Court file Combaconum—As: No. 106-1844 Civil Court.

34. "The right of property in the land is unequivocally recoguized in the present agricultural inhabitants by descent, purchase or gift. "

Fortescue.

35. "But it is an ascertained fact that there is not a foot of land, in the long settled Districts of India, that is not the claimed, and probably the lawful, property of some individual or of some village community.

Mr. Rickards.

The tenures discovered in various parts of India, establish beyond all dispute, the important fact that the real property of the land was formerly vested in individual Landlords, whose exclusive right of selling, mortgaging, leasing, bequeathing or otherwise disposing of their lands, no Hindu sovereign, viceroy or other person in authority ever thought of disputing, that this was consequently a hereditary right and in full force and invariable usage.

The existence of private property in the soil, perfectly independent of control and interference on the part of the sovereign, was first discovered in Malabar.

The first mention we find of it, is in a report of Mr. Place. The term used to express it is Merass or Merassy.

The same or similar rights were afterwards traced in Tanjore, Tinnevelly, Canara, and other Provinces where the titles to private property in land were ascertained to be as full and clear, and supported by deeds more ancient and probably more perfect than in Europe.

The Peninsula of India being for the most part divided into villages and village communities, this right is found very generally to exist in three distinct states.

That these proprietors formerly existed, and perhaps universally in India, there cannot be the least doubt.

Merassi estates are of various amount and value. In the provinces of Tanjore and Trichinopoly they are found to exist from 4000 acres down to one acre of land. "

36. "The Vellalars formed large communities of a purely democratic constitution, and alleged that they were the originators of the democratic Merassi Tenure in the South which is described as existing in their villages word for word as I should describe the constitution of a Jat or Rajput village of the present day. They claim and exercise a very strong proprietory right in each village over the whole land, cultivated and uncultivated, and divide the cultivated land in fixed shares. "

George Campbell, Esq.,

37. "The ryot cultivating his own (meaning the Merassidar) has a heraditable interest in the soil; his title is much more ancient than ours and has survived through every variety of change and convulsion. "

Thornton.

38. "By some writers it has been stated that the ryotwar system is founded upon the assumption that Government is possessed of the entire property in the soil and may dispose of it at their pleasure.

Sketch of the Ryotwar system of Revenue Administration apparently by a friend of Sir Thomas Munro.

It is surprising that such misconceptions should have been entertained, and that Sir Thomas Munro who was distinguished for sagacity and for comprehensive and liberal views of policy, and who had obtained from the Natives the protecting designation of Father, should have been considered the patron of a measure so much calculated to have paralyzed industry and to have kept the great mass of people in perpetual bondage and pauperism.

In every part of the Province wherein the Ryotwary is introduced, the ryot is the complete owner of his land, and sells, mortgages and alienates it as he may think proper without any interference from Government.

Sir Thomas Munro did not aim at the introduction of any new plan, but at the restoration and improvement of that which he found to have been the ancient system of the country, the principal feature in which, was the settlement with the proprietors themselves and the direct collection of the public revenue from the proprietors themselves.

The system meddles not with rights, with tenures or with occupancy. Its leading principle is, recognition of proprietory right."

39. "In Tanjore the land is in the hands of proprietors, where therefore property in the soil has not to be created but actually exists."

J. F. Thomas Esq.

40. "There is not an acre of land in Southern India which does not belong, however much the title may have been impaired, to a recognized proprietor or municipality subject only to the payment of a land tax.

Honorable Walter Elliot.

The very idea of a sovereign being sole proprietor of all the land in his dominions is opposed to reason and experience.

Many of the original titles still survive both in India and England to demonstrate the fallacy of the assumption."

41. "Without entering on the question of who is proprietor of the soil, I will content myself with stating that immemorial usage has established both in Tanjore and Trichinopoly, that the occupants, whether distinguished by the names of Merassidars, or Mahajanums, have the right of selling, bestowing, devising, and bequeathing their lands in the manner which to them is most agreeable."

Mr. Wallace.

42. I humbly trust that the above extracts will satisfy your Excellency that the soil in India belongs to the ryots and that their right of proprietorship is called Meerassy.

43. I fancy I have further proved that Tanjore is a Meerassi District.

44. Now I beg to add that the Meerassi right is not limited to cultivated lands only, but extends to all sorts of land and property within the village. A Meerassidar, therefore, whether in Tanjore or elsewhere, not only owns ~~has~~ cultivated fields but also the uncultivated, rocky, wet, &c, portions of the village to which these belong.

45. To prove this position I beg to be permitted to quote a few passages from authors of unquestionable authority many of whom have already been referred to, as also extracts from Government records.

46. "As regards this particular Merassi right, the lands of every Tamil village may be divided into two distinct kinds. 1st not paying revenue, 2nd paying revenue to Government. In the first class are included 1st Porumpoke or lands incapable of cultivation, and 2nd Taras or Waste land.

Board of Revenue, 5th January 1818.

In the second are included all the cultivated lands in the Village. The Merassi right extends to all these different descriptions of land; but each must be enjoyed according to its peculiar nature.

The Porumpoke consists of rocks, public roads, the beds of rivers, tanks and water courses, the burial and burning grounds, Parachary, sites of temples, and sites of houses.

Indeed their (Merassidars) title to erect their dwellings on that, (Nuttum) particular spot, and their right to control the affairs of the Village Pagodas, and to appropriate the produce of quarries, mines or fisheries, are the chief privileges they possess in the Porumpoke which is not liable to any tax.

The Taras or waste land consists chiefly of tracts of Common on which the Merassidars graze the cattle employed by them in agriculture, or of jungle in which they cut the firewood used by them for fuel, and both are held free from tax.

In all Tamil Villages the Porumpoke, the Tareesee, are held in common joint property by the whole of the Merassidars, each in proportion to his share in the Merassi being entitled to participate therein.

When a Merassdar sells his Merassi he transfers to the purchasers not only his common right to participate to the extent of the share he holds in the Porumpoke, Tareesee, &c, and other collective property in the Village, but his individual right to certain particular and defined cultivated lands."

47. Mr. Hodgson determines the property in uncultivated land ~~be~~ to the right of the Merassidars of the Village.

Mr. Hodgson.

48. "At one time I was disposed to think that, besides the name of contractors of Revenue, they, the Zemindars, might also claim the title of Lords of the waste, but even this right is indisputably shown by the able Report* above quoted to be the corporate property of the township."

Wilk's Mysore.

* I think the 5th Report.

49. "The democratic tribes, meaning the Merassidars, have been mentioned as possessed of much stronger rights. With them the whole land of the country was divided among the different communities. They claim the proprietorship not only of the cultivated but also of the uncultivated land, within their limits

George Campbell Esq.,

When the communities are so strong, independent and well organized, there can be no doubt with whom the proprietory right rests."

50. "The waste land is a common pasturage for the cattle of the village.

Mr. Rickards.

To show the sense which the Natives themselves entertain of their own right in the common property in the village, the Collector (of Tanjore) gives the translation of a deed of sale of one of the Shares, which runs as follows; I, A, B. of the village of C. containing 28 shares, do hereby execute to D. E. of the same village, this deed of sale that is to say, having sold to you in this village one share of my own six shares therein, I do hereby execute to you this deed of the full and absolute sale thereof; and you having further paid and I having actually received 100 chuckrums duly shroffed in full value thereof, you are accordingly, to the extent of the share now transferred and sold to you, fully to possess and enjoy all Nunjah, Poonjah, islands, water, stone, topes, jungle, riches, treasures, and every well which sinks beneath or every tree that rises above the earth, with every general benefit of every sort, from father to son, through every generation, as long as the waters of the

Cauvery flow, vegetation lasts or until the end of time, with the fullest liberty, likewise, of alienation by gift, bequest, sale or otherwise, and may you enjoy all prosperity therewith. Thus, with my fullest approbation, I do hereby execute to D. E. this deed of sale which is written by Peramal Pillay, village Conekapillay, and this requires authentication from all the other proprietors of the village—signed.'

51. "Merassi right, wherever it exists, extends certainly to waste lands.

Mr. Ellis.

52. This right of the Merassidar to every inch of the soil in his village is not a nominal right but one yielding him a clear landlord's rent, called Swamy Bogam or Toondavaram. This varies in different places. It is the loss of this that the Merassidars represent as an encroachment upon, nay annihilation of, their immemorial Merassi right."

53. Mr. G. Campbell says that, "in the first instance they probably themselves retained the whole or part of the rent, but the greater part of this they have eventually been obliged to pay to some Government. They generally however retain some marginal portion of it as their profit and for local expences especially, and where there were inferior holders, a portion of the rent levied from them reverts to the superiors. This then was a much stronger and more decided proprietorship."

54. In speaking of the North West Provinces, where the Merassi right is found, the same author says, that the Collector "taking everything into consideration fixes the assessment. If the proprietors object, he hears their objections; but if these avail not they must either agree to the terms or give a written refusal. In the few cases in which all negotiations end in the latter result, the proprietors are entitled to 10 per cent for the Revenue, and sometimes get more and the village is rented to a farmer."

55. "The Board of Revenue, however, apprehending, and as we certainly think, with good reason, that this (the rule that the ryots obstinately refusing to take up rents, must be given only 10 per cent, instead of his Toondavaram) might be considered as an invasion of the Merassi rights, were of opinion that Government would not be justified, for the purpose of giving general practical effect to any plan of administration, in reducing the allowance of any Class of Merassidars beyond the lowest standard authorized by past experience, which is stated to have been $\frac{1}{8}$ of the actual produce.

Court of Directors.

In this opinion we entirely agree and we cannot too strongly express our disapprobation that it had been acted upon."

56. Mr. J. F. Thomas bears evidence to the fact that the Merassidars of Tanjore do not themselves till the land but enjoy a landlord's rent; that the gross produce of the wet land in Tanjore irrigated by Government works is divided upon an average nearly as follows; 50 per cent. the Government tax; 25 per cent. charges of Cultivation or an allowance to the actual cultivator; 12 per cent. village cesses; and 13 per cent. Merassidar's rent. That the Merassi is a Tenure which allows a proprietor's rent as well as a Government tax.

J. F. Thomas Esq.

57. The Board of Revenue in their Minute dated the 5th January 1818 observe that "from the numerous deeds of sale still extant, throughout the Southern provinces, there is no doubt that at one time Merassi was universally a saleable and transferable property, and that the Merasidars every where enjoyed a Toondavaram or clear landlord's rent from all the lands cultivated by their Payacari tenants, and both a landlord's rent and farmer's profit, from the lands which were cultivated by their own labourers or slaves."

Board of Revenue.

58. Mr. Harris, a late Collector of Tanjore, estimates the Merassidar's Toondavaram at somewhat less than 25 per cent.

Mr. Harris.

59. Mr. Wilks in his History of Mysore observes that the Meerassidars have a clear, ample and unquestioned proprietor's share, amounting, according to the same authority, to the respectable proportion of 27 per cent. of the gross produce, a larger rent than remains to an English proprietor of land who had tithes and land tax to pay, even before the establishment of the revenue tax.

Mr. Wilks.

60. Mr. Hodgson in his report on Tinnevelly estimates the Toondavaram at 13½ per cent. of the gross produce.

Mr. Hodgson.

Non-perishability of the Meras.

61. Further, the Meerassi right is not perishable and has been held as such even by the British Government.

62. In the North-west Provinces, it is a rule "that when a Meerassidar leaves his kists in arrears, the Collector lets the estate temporarily to a farmer, the rights of the proprietor being in abeyance till better times, but not extinguished."

Mr. Campbell.

63. Mr. Thornton says that "the right of the ryot appears as expressed by one witness to be the greatest right in the Country and a right which never seems to die."

Mr. Thornton.

"He may quit his land for any period of time and the cultivation may be assumed by others, but if he or his heir return and reclaim the land, he has only to come to a compromise with the party in possession for the value of the crop on the ground, and his inheritance is restored to him immediately."

64. This characteristic of the Merassi appears to have been recognized by the Legislative Council of India; for a few months ago Mr. Leget moved in the Council the adoption of the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to limit the period within which a Merasidar may assert his claim to lands which he may have abandoned or for which he may have failed to pay assessment.

Legislative Council.

65. Mr. Ellis observes that the Merassi right is not forfeited by the discontinuance of collection for a single year or any longer period during the life of the Merassidar, his son or his grandson.

Mr. Ellis.

66. The late Honorable Court of Directors have condemned in the strongest language possible the proposal of the Madras Government to give land in Tanjore to others than the Merassidars when they do not come to terms with Government as to assessment.

THE COURT OF DIRECTORS. Madras Revenue Selections Vol. I. Letter to Madras Government, August 1804. November 1805.

67. Having thus shown what the Merassi or the ownership of the land is, I now beg to proceed to the details of the settlement above alluded to.

68. It appears to me to be impossible to make rules that can be applicable to all parts of the District of Tanjore, for it con-

sists of two grand divisions essentially differing in character, namely, the irrigated and the non irrigated, the first lying between the rivers Coleroon and the Vennar, and the other to the south of the last mentioned river.

I would therefore propose different sets of rules for each of these divisions.

The maximum amount of Revenue which could be collected has been brought to account in the Ist Division, and it is therefore useless to expect any addition to it by the introduction of any new settlement. There is not in it much waste that may be recovered, what little there is being indispensably required for grazing cattle, &c. I would therefore propose,

1st. To clearly ascertain what portion of any waste in a village might without inconvenience to the villagers be brought under cultivation.

2nd. To find out the Tarum assessment thereof or fix one on it from that of the neighbouring fields.

3rd. To add this to the Jamabundy amount and make the sum thus obtained the maximum amount of tax that the Government would always damand of the ryots, allowing, at the same time, in particular cases, such deduction from the amount so added as the well being of the ryots may appear absolutely to demand.

4th. To apportion this settled amount among the several Punjoos or shares of the village, and thus determine what each ryot will have to pay.

5th. To give the ryots distinctly to understand by proclamation that no remission will be granted them except in seasons of very extraordinary distress, but assuring them at the same time that they might enjoy untaxed the benefit of any improvement they may effect in their holdings, whether it be the conversion of one crop land into two crop, of dry into wet or the like, except where such improvement is directly owing to important hydraulic works executed by the Government, in which case an additional water tax might be levied.

It may perhaps be objected that the last mentioned rule will deprive the Government of any legitimate increase of revenue. But I believe that the loss the Government may thereby sustain will be more than counterbalanced by the saving that would result from the removal of that host of officers who are now paid

to watch cultivation, the encroachment of wet and dry land, of two crop on one crop, &c. And even supposing this not to be the case, what is the sacrifice of revenue that the proposition involves but as the dust in the balance compared with the numerous and important advantages that will flow from it—the improvement in the condition of the land which would add to the stability of the Revenue, the removal of every baneful interference with the ryots, the creation of a respectable and independent body of Land-lords, the great supporters of Government, and the development of the resources of the country resulting from the vigorous stimulus which would thus be administered to industry.

As regards the Second division I would be more liberal. Lands under this section depend entirely upon rain for cultivation, and not even in a single year has the full demand on a village ever been collected in this District. Large tracts have been waste from time immemorial. The soil I think is fit for more planting trees than for any think else.

I have reason to believe that there were more topes or groups of trees on this land than what may be seen now, and attribute the decay of the plantations to the system of taxing trees introduced by our Government.

I would propose that these lands be also completely and for ever made over to the ryots for a fixed amount of Revenue—which should be the average of the collections of the last 20 years with an addition varying with the ratio of extent of culturable waste to that of the cultivated land according to the following scale.

Ratio of Culturable waste to Cultivated Land	Percentage to be added to the Average Collection of 20 Years.
Exceeding 2	40
Between 1 & 2	30
1	20
Between 1 & ½	10
Less than ½	5

The assessment thus fixed would be distributed upon the Registered proprietors either according to their shares in the village or according to the extent of their holding, in each village.

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I would apply the 5th Rule for the 1st Division equally to lands in the 2nd, but would not force this condition of the ryots who will be allowed the option of either agreeing to this settlement or coming to an understanding with Government as to what extent they would wish to keep on which no remission or any account should ever be allowed.

I am confident that the ryots will heartily agree to the proposed arrangement provided it is not forced on them, and that if the carrying out of this scheme be entrusted to efficient, and judicious hands, it can be affected with perfect satisfaction to the people and to the Government.

In conclusion I beg to assure your Excellency that my proposal if ordered to be carried out would not tend to lower the Government revenue, would make it certain and permanent, would make the land-lords wealthy and independent and of great assistance to Government.

How delighted I am to find that the people of this country now enjoy the privilage of freely submitting their views, insignificant as the individuals may be, to the Head of this Government whose enlightened views, never failing courtesy, and unprecedented activity have no example in the Annals of the Madras Presidency.

Whence do we enjoy such rights? From the happy circumstance of this once famous country falling under the Government of the British constitution, a noble fabric, as was observed by our late Advocate General Mr. George Norton, raised by the labor of many centuries, the pride of our nation and the envy of our neighbours.

That this country may for ever remain under the protection of this constitution, and that our beloved Sovereign may live long and exercise sway over these wide domains diffusing happiness and prosperity all over her boundless Empire, is the fervent prayer of

Your Excellency's most obedient and humble and greatly obliged Servant,

R. RAGOONATH ROW,

Deputy Collector of Tanjore.

COOMBACONUM,
1st June 1860.

Galle 27th June 1860.

67. My Dear Sir,

Accept my thanks for your interesting and intelligent Pamphlet several copies of which you were so kind as to send me before I left Madras, but I had not then time to acknowledge it. On your main point I entirely agree with you. Where Landed Property is found to exist I would do all I could to confirm and develope it. And where it does not exist every necessary means should be taken to create it. I see no objection to the arrangements proposed by you for the completion of the Land Revenue Settlement of Tanjore. But I will not enter upon that. Wishing you success in the honorable duty which has been entrusted to you in North Arcot and Cuddapah. And desiring to be kindly remembered to your Brother Hari Row.

I Remain

very kindly yours;

C. TREVELYAN.

R. Rághúnáth Ráw

Deputy Collector of Tanjore.

Kumbhakonam.

Revenue Department.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

68. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 27th November 1860, No. 5,499:—

Read the following letter from J. I. MINCHIN, Esq., Acting Collector of Kurnool, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Fort Saint George, dated 15th November 1860, No. 182.

* * * * *

7. It would be superfluous for me to remark on the known efficiency of Deputy Collector Ragunàda Ràu, in whose

hands I am certain the Tâluqs attached to the Head Assistant's charge will be well looked after.

* * * * *

ORDER THEREON, 14th January 1861, No. 971.

1. The Governor in Council does not object to the Acting Collector availing himsef generally of Ragunâda Râu's services, but the position of the Head Assistant's Tâluqs renders it impossible for Ragunâda Râu to have charge of them, consistently with his other duties. In the event of Mr. Arbuthnot not having qualified himself at the last examination other arrangements will be made.

2. Ragunâda Râu's services are required in North Arcot as as well as Kurnool, and his detention in the latter District for general duty is therefore undesirable.

(True Extract)

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON Secretary.

TRAVANCORE

December 17—1861

69. RAGUNADA RAO,

I have the pleasure of returning Mr. Bourdillon's letter to you as expression of that gentleman's high opinion of your integrity of character. I am not aware of what passed between the Dewan Madava Row and yourself at the time alluded to, or, if the circumstances be mentioned to me they have escaped my memory; but should occasion offer Mr. Bourdillon's recommendation will recieve every consideration.

Your's faithfully

(Signed) F. N. MALTBY.

To

R. Ragoonada Row

Deputy Collector.

CUMBUM May 4th 1861.

70. MY DEAR RAGOONATHA ROW,

I do not think I can fairly give you advice upon the scanty information you have given me as to the offer made you from Travancore. If you remain in the Government service, with the position you have attained so early and your personal qualifications, you ought finally to become a first class Deputy Collector on Rs. 600 a month.—Whether 20 years hence, higher positions may be open to the ambition of the best of the Uncovenanted Service we do not know. By throwing up the service you give up that prospect, and the certainty of a respectable pension. Perhaps with your private means the latter may not be an object of great consequence.

On the other hand with your independent nature, your life might be a pleasanter one in a Native State than in the Government service. This must depend chiefly however on what your position in the Native State would be, and whether you would there be really independant of Native intrigues. As long as Madhava Row remains as Dewan I suppose you would be thoroughly supported; but if any thing happened to him, and a corrupt man obtained his place, your life might be much more miserable than in your present position. I presume the offer made to you is a Judicial post, probably that of Chief Judge in Travancore. To a such post you are doubtless most fitted and could do much good in it. I cannot however but warn you not to throw up your present certainty and an honorable, if not, brilliant position, unless you have some guarantee for your future.

Remember me kindly to Harry Row

Your's very truly,

(Signed) JAMES INNES MINCHIN.

CUMBUM May 12th 1861.

71. MY DEAR RAGOONATHA ROW,

* * * *

You must not think that I absolutely advise you not to close with Madava Row's offer. I think that in many respects a Judicial appointment in a Native State is singularly suited for your temperament and talents, but I wish you to look fully on both sides and endeavour to secure your future before yielding to the temptation. It cannot be said to be free from risk.

Your's ever,

(Signed) JAMES INNES, MINCHIN.

May 28th 1861.

72. DEAR SIR,

* * * * *

You will have a fine field in Travancore I think and I am prepared to advise you not to let an opening there escape you.

Your's truly,

(Signed) G. I. BEAUCHAMP.

KURNOOL 17th June 1861.

To

The Registrar of the Sudder Court.

Sir,

73. In reply to Circular letter dated 25th Ultimo from the Acting Deputy Registrar of Sudder Court, I have the honor to furnish a tabular statement of the services of R. Ragoonatha Row, at present a Deputy Collector in this District, who is desirous of re-entering upon judicial employ. He is the only person of judicial experience with whom I am acquainted who, in my opinion, is duly qualified—and I consider him eminently qualified—for the important office of Principal Sudder Ameen. I enclose an original letter from the Collector and would add that having known R. Ragoonatha Row for seven years, and had experience of his character and abilities in the Subordinate Court at Combaconum, I most fully concur in the opinion formed of him by Mr. Minchin.

Paras 2, 3, 4 and 5 of a return made by Mr. Beauchamp on the 20th January 1859 to a precept from the Court of Sudder Adalut accompanying an Extract of Proceedings of the 11th January 1859, show the high opinion then formed by Mr. Beauchamp of the qualification and conduct of Ragoonatha Row.

(Signed) L. C. INNES,

Civil Judge of

Nundial.

RAMSGATE, July, 6th 1861.

London

74. RAGUNATHA ROW,

Your letter of the 13th May reached me this morning. I am afraid it is now too late for me to offer you advice on the question which is the chief subject of it, viz, whether you should accept or not the offer of employment in Travancore. Had your letter reached me at Madras I should have had no hesitation in giving my advice in favor of acceptance. Not only the income is liberal, but you would be in a position, I apprehend, of more extensive usefulness, as well as more prominence in the public eye. I presume the post to be offered you is judicial, and that is the kind of employment which I believe to be most suited to you. I imagine there is much room for improvement in the administration of justice in Travancore; and the opinion which I have of your integrity and independence makes me think that you would be the means of much good. Such are the thoughts which I should have expressed to you. It is now too late to offer counsel; but on the assumption that you did accept the offer of employment when made, I congratulate you on the change, and tender my sincere wishes that you may be able to effect much good, that you may earn a high reputation with the people of Travancore both as an upright Judge, (one of the noblest characters in the world,) and as a judicial reformer, and that the change of prospects may be much for your own happiness. I shall regret the loss of your services among the Deputy Collectors; but I trust that worthy successors will be found for such vacancies, and that the institutions of Deputy Collectors may be all that its promoters desired.

In the supposition that you are already in Travancore, I have much pleasure in enclosing a few lines to Mr. F. N. Maltbe, expressing my opinion of you.

Believe me, with best wishes

Your sincere friend,

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLION.

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75. MY DEAR RAGOONADAH.

I return your letters. I think you have made a very proper answer to Madhava Row. It is absurd to think that a Judgeship in the Travancore appellate Court on 4 or 5 hundred Rupees a month, could tempt you to give up your fine position and prospects under the British Government.

In your place I would be tempted by nothing short of the place of sole Judicial Commissioner on a salary of Rs 1000.

Yours

(Signed) J. I. MINCHIN.

No. 5461.

~~Proceedings of the Board of Revenue dated 8th October 1861.~~
Extract from a

~~Read the following~~ letter from J. I. Minchin Esqre. Ag. Collector of Kurnool, to W. Hudleston Esqre., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Chepauk dated 11th September 1861. No. 108.

1. I have the honor to forward copy of a Report from Deputy Collector Ragoonadha Row, on special duty in the District, detailing his arrangements for making over the whole land under Class A required for the Irrigation Company in the first section from Sookesula to Kurnool..

2. A total of 1738 Acres has been made under Class A of which 807 Acres were Putta land and purchased at a cost of Rupees 5810-0-7; Rupees 376 were paid for two wells; Rupees 200 for the removal of two Pagodas; Rs 15 for trees and Rs 96-14-0 for some Inam land for which no land could be given in exchange, making a total money expenditure of Rs.6497-14-7.

3. Except in the trifling instance above mentioned, land was given in exchange for the 481 Acres, 23 and six sixteenth Goontas, of Inam land taken up. With the exception of 44 Acres, 18 Goontas obtained from waste, all this land was taken from Putta lands voluntarily yielded for the purpose and the total yearly loss of revenue on the whole land made over to the Company under Class A for this section, amounts to Rs. 1221-6-11 on Acres 1163.

4. In no case was it found necessary to resort to the provisions, of Act VI of 1857; and the honest efforts made by the Deputy Collector to value each man's land fairly are, I believe, fully appreciated by the people, and his arrangements accepted as satisfactory. I have also pleasure in bringing to the notice of the Board the promptitude with which the settlement has been completed, and the land made over to the Company

76½. Extract from a speech made by J. I. Minchin Esqre. Collector of Kurnool, on the occasion of the ceremony of breaking ground for the Main Canal of the Madras Irrigation Company, on the 30th July 1861.

There is not an acre of land, not a shed, or a tree upon it, for which full compensation is not paid to the owner, before it is placed in possession of the Company. For this special purpose, one of the most able and experienced Deputy Collectors in the service has been expressly deputed to the District and has arranged a fair compensation in every case. So ably has he performed his duties, that within 24 hours of receiving the sanctioned tracings from Madras, the land for the first two miles of the Canal out of Kurnool were made over to Colonel Cotton.

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77. Extract of a Letter from Mr. J. I. Minchin Collector of Kurnool to W. Hudleston Esqre. Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 21st September 1861. No. 114.

* * *

28. I have to express my obligations to the Deputy Collector Ragoonath Row employed on special duty in the District. He has on separate occasions been, in charge of the Head Assistants and Assistant's Offices and has constantly had Revenue charge of two Talooks. He has a complete knowledge of his duties in all Departments and I consider him a most valuable public officer.

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78. Extract of a Letter from J. I. Minchin Esqre. Collector of Kurnool, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, Dated——November 1861.

* * *

2. I have much pleasure in stating that Ragoonatha Row by his services while employed on special duty in Kurnool, has fully borne out the high opinion formed of him by Sir Charles Trevelyan and merits the favorable consideration of Government.

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79. *PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.*

22nd November 1861, No. 2,158.

1. With these Proceedings the Board of Revenue forward a report by Ragoonatha Row, Deputy Collector on Special duty in

Kurnool, on the arrrugements made by him for the transfer to the Irrigation and Canal Company of the 1st Section, 17¼ miles in length, required for the Canal in that District as well as the Collector's remarks on the same.

2. The Government highly approve of the promptitude with which the Deputy Collector entered upon and completed this portion of his enquiry. The entire length of the section was ready for the Company with in a month after the plans reached Ragoonatha Row's office. During this short period 1,738 acres of land had been measured, assessed, classified, &c. ; the necessary references made to the Collector, and a sum of Rupees 6,497-14-7 disbursed as compensation, the bulk of which went to holders of Putta lands. More than 400 acres were given in exchange for Inam land taken up ; and in no case was recourse to Act VI of 1857 found necessary. Ragoonatha Row deserves much credit for his exertions.

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80. Extract of a letter from J. I. Minchin Esq. Acting Magistrate of Kurnool, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated 28th January 1862, No. 4.

* *

3. With regard to my other recommendation, the Deputy Magistrate Ragoonatha Row is an Officer of such marked ability and legal knowledge, that the full powers can beneficially be conferred upon him as an assistant to the Magistrate of the District on whom otherwise a great increase of work will fall under the new Procedure.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

81. Read the following letter from James Innes Minchin Esq. Acting Magistrate of Kurnool, to T. Pycroft Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George dated 27th February 1862, No. 12.

* *

5. In most Districts the Magistrate has the assistants of a Joint Magistrate and Head Assistant to relieve him from the duty of supervising the proceedings of the whole of the Sub Magistracy, but, in Kurnool, the area of which is larger than that of most Districts in the Presidency, I must myself supervise the

Magisterial cases in every Talook not in charge of the Head Assistant unless the Government will grant me the assistance I have requested by conferring upon the Deputy Collector Ragoonatha Row, the full powers of a Magistrate under Section 23 and power to hear appeals under Section 412.

6. Unless the Deputy Collector Ragoonatha Row, were fully qualified to perform the duties proposed, I would of course rather do the whole work myself than make such a recommendation, but I am confident that there is not a better Native Judicial officer in the service of Government and that he is fully qualified for the trust.

Order thereon, 19th March 1862, No. 467.

* *

2. They (Government) resolve also, under the circumstances stated, to vest R. Ragoonatha Row, Deputy Collector of Kurnool with the full powers of a Magistrate under Section 23 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and also, under Section 412, to hear and dispose of Appeals from the decisions of the Subordinate Magistrates of the Second Class stationed within his charge.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,

Chief Secretary.

BELLARY November 9th—62.

82. MY DEAR RAGOONATHA,

* *

I saw Mr. Sim at Ootacamund and as the conversation turned upon your business, I mentioned the admirable way in which you had performed it, of which however he was well aware.

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83. Extract from a Letter of J. I. Minchin Esq., to the Board of Revenue, dated 13th December 1862.
No. 8128.

* *

5, While recording my opinion that no change is required in the Act (VI of 1857) I must state that it has never been necessary to make use of it in making over land in this District to the Irrigation Company.

6. The Deputy Collector Ragoonatha Row who has been employed on this special duty both in this District and in Tanjore for the great Southern of India Railway has by his tact, attention to duty and proved determination to treat all parties with Justice, been able to procure all the land required by mutual agreement, and where the same care is taken in the operation, the same result can I believe be generally obtained.

Palace Trevandrum 22nd May 1863.

84. MY DEAR RAGOONATHA ROW,

I have received with much pleasure your's of the 7th Instant.

I am happy to learn that all the members of the family of the late distinguished Dewan Vencut Row are in good health.

I do not wonder that the Madras Government treats you with kindness, which doubtless you fully deserve. Already you occupy a position which is attained only by a few among the Natives, and I am sure that you will rise to higher positions still.

I remain your's very truly

(Signed) RAMA VURMA

(Maharaja of Travancore)

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85. KURNOOL Collector's office 15th August 1863. No. 127

From,

James, Innes, Minchin Esq., Collector of Kurnool

To.

The Secretary to the Board of Revenue.

Sir,

I have the honor to reply to your Miscellaneous Circular No. 46. Board No. 388 dated 10th June last, referring to the Draft bill for the Registration of Assurances.

2. I have obtained the opinion of the Deputy Collector Ragoonatha Row on the subject, whose legal training and

European Education, joined to his known sympathy for the conservative tendency of his countrymen, render his views on all such questions of great value. His report is submitted and is worth consideration.

* *

6. The Deputy Collector Ragoonatha Row considers that registration should be compulsory in all cases, and in his view I concur. There would be no hardship in this, if facilities for registration were brought home to men's doors, if in every Village a Registry office were opened for deeds of small value such as constitute the staple transaction of ordinary village life.

7. I beg to recommend to the earlist consideration of the Board, the scheme proposed by the Deputy Collector in paras, 18 to 28 of his letter which appears to me perfectly feasible would cost nothing to the state and would effect every purpose intended by this Bill which could be carried out under its provisions with very slight modification.

* *

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

83. Read the following letter from W. Hudleston Esq. Secretary to the Board of Revenue, to J. D. Sim Esq. Secretary to Government, Revenue Department Fort Saint George, dated Madras 24th July 1863. No, 4,586.

* *

3. In Kurnool, a Deputy Collector is employed for the special duty of making over lands in the District required by the Irrigation and Canal Company. This officer, who was previously employed in Tanjore in the acquisition of lands for the Great Southern of India Railway, has succeeded in procuring all the land required by mutual agreement.

4. The Board do not, therefore, think that any change is required in the Act as it now stands, and that in cases where a resort to it is rendered necessary, its provisions are quite sufficient for the protection of the interests of Government.

Order thereon 10th August 1863 No. 1479.

1. The Governor in Council concurs with the Board that in this Presidency the interests of Government have been very

fairly protected in the grant of compensation for land required for public purposes.

2. In cases where a large extent of land has been required, as for the Irrigation Company in Kurnool, the Great Southern of India Railway Company in Tanjore, and the North Western Railway, the duty of fixing the compensation has been entrusted to a Covenanted Assistant of the Collector or to an experienced Dy. Collector, and this plan has answered justice to all concerned and has obviated delay.

* *

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMEMT.

87. Revenue Department 11th September 1863. No, 166. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 5th September 1863 :—

Read the following letter from J. I. Minchin Esq. Collector of Kurnool, to W. Hudleston Esq. Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Fort Saint George, dated 29th August 1863. No. 139.

SIR.

I have the honor to forward the exclosed copy of an application from the Dy. Collector Ragoonadha Row, employed on Special duty in this District, to be permitted on account of ill health to revert to his proper appointment in the District of Trichinopoly.

* *

4. I deeply regret the cause which necessitates Ragunada Row's application to leave Kurnool, an application which I know he has submitted with reluctance, but which the state of his health, affected by exposure in his special duties, has rendered unavoidable.

I cannot speak too highly of the assistance which this Officer has rendered me in every way, for the period of two years he has been employed in this District, and I beg earnestly to recommand him to the favorable consideration of the Board and Government on his return to his fixed appointment.

---

1. Submitted for the orders of Government.

2. The Board much regret to learn that Ragoonada Row's zealous discharge of his duties has so seriously affected his health.

No. 167. Order thereon, 11th September 1863 No. 1683.

1. Under the circumstances stated, Ragoonada Row is permitted to join his station, Trichinopoly, when relieved.

3. The Government are pleased to find that Ragoonada Row has so well performed the special duties entrusted to him.

(True extract)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT,

REVENUE DEPARTMENT 7th November 1863.

No. 81. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 30th October 1863.

88. Read the following letter from J. I. Minchin Esquire Collector of Kurnool, to W. Hudleston Esquire Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Fort Saint George, dated Kurnool 22nd October 1863, No. 169.

* *

8. I cannot conclude without stating that the successful institution of the Association is owing to the strenous exertions of the Deputy Collector Ragoonadha Row and the urgent appeals made on the subject by the Zillah Surgeon Dr. Keess, to all within his influence.

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1. The Governor in Council learns with much gratification that the residents of Kurnool have united to carry out Municipal improvements in that Town, and in order to encourage them to renewed and persistent efforts, authorizes a grant from the Treasury of Rs. 2,150, the equivalent of their subscriptions.

No. 82.

Order thereon—7th Nov. 1863 No. 2002.

Mr. Minchin will convey the acknowledgements of Government to Dr. Keess and R. Ragunatha Row.

89. My Dear Ragoonada Row, NARNOOR 4th March 1863

I send for your perusal the accompanying original answer from Government to my reference about yourself. I am afraid you will be disappointed at having still to stay in the District, but I must confess to a most selfish satisfaction at having the benefit of your services, of which I propose to avail myself fully.

I know you have a proper horror of indolence, and will have no objection to take up any work I can find for you at present, I intend therefore to ask you to take sole charge of the two Talooks of Pattikonda, and Nandikolkoor. and to invest you with the powers under Section 22 of the Income Tax act, to settle the In-come Tax also in those two Talooks.

* *

yours very truly

(Signed) JAMES, INNES, MINCHIN.

---

90. Extract from a letter of Mr. Sim, Secretary to Government, to P. Madava Row, Dewan of Travancore, dated——1863.

I will write immediately to Mr. Minchin to ascertain whether R. Ragoonatha Row's work is completed or approaching completion, and if arrangements can be made for his relief, it will afford me great pleasure to be instrumental in meeting your wishes. The fact is, that he is doing a difficult business in a most successful way and hence the difficulty of relieving him.

No. 1,772.

91. *PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,*

dated 22nd March 1864.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Kurnool, dated Bhoopatipally, 8th March 1864, No. 31 :—

1. I have the honor to forward for the consideration of the Board and Government the accompanying copy of a letter from General Ludlow, Consulting Engineer Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, urging that the services of the Deputy Collector,

Ragoonatha Row, employed on special duty in this District should be retained until the Irrigation under the Company's Canal be set fairly going, or for a further period of three years.

2. I entirely concur in all that is recorded by General Ludlow of the value of the Deputy Collector's service, of the admirable manner in which he has performed his duty, and of his peculiar qualification for the post he fills. It is my duty at the same time to state that the Deputy Collector is personally desirous to return to the south, and that he was sent to Kurnool with a prospect of completing his special duty in a few months.

3. Ragoonatha Row now stands appointed to the Trichinopoly District, but early in the year he volunteered to continue in the present post till relieved by Gopalaya, now employed in the Inam Commission, and whose services will be available at the end of the official year.

4. I consider that immediate promotion to a higher class could alone be a fair inducement to Ragoonatha Row to abandon his Trichinopoly appointment, and remain for three years further in Kurnool, and if Government as a mark of their approbation of his services can make this arrangement, it will give me great pleasure, and will I know be conducive to the interests of this District.

5. If this cannot be done, I should not feel justified in asking that his services be retained here, and I do not doubt that the Deputy Collector Gopalaya will in a short time worthily replace him.

Enclosure No. 1.

From Major-General S. O. E. Ludlow, R. E., Consulting Engineer for Irrigation and Canal Company, to J. I. Minchin Esq., Collector of Kurnool, dated 27th February 1864, No. 135.

1. It is, I think, a matter for regret that just at the time when irrigation under the Company's Canal is about to commence, your District should be deprived of the services of the Deputy Collector Ragoonatha Row.

2. No body can be fully aware than yourself of the numerous difficulties which are likely to arise when Irrigation by the Company's Canal first commences, or of the necessity for the services of an intelligent officer well acquainted with all the circumstances of the case, to deal with them.

3. You will also, I believe, concur with me in thinking that the Deputy Collector has exhibited an amount of judgment and temper in his proceedings hitherto, which prove him to be especially well adapted for the arduous and delicate duty entrusted to him.

4. While carefully watching the interests of Government he has succeeded in securing the good-will both of the Ryots and Officers of the Company. I am therefore induced, though the matter is one hardly within my province, to beg of you to urge upon the Board of Revenue, and Government, the desirableness of retaining his services in the District, until irrigation under the Canal has been fairly set going, which cannot be expected to occupy less than three years.

5. In making this suggestion, I trust that I am not recommending any thing which may militate against the personal interest, or interfere with the professional prospects of the Deputy Collector. It would be unfair that these should suffer, because his services are considered peculiarly valuable.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. I. MINCHIN,
Collector.

---

1. Ordered to be submitted for the consideration of Govt.

2. The Board are glad to receive this high testimony to Ragoonatha Row's merits, and they do not doubt that his further services in Kurnool, till the working of the Irrigation Company is fairly established, would be most valuable both to Government, to the Company, and to the people. They are however aware that Rágoonatha Row's health has suffered from the climate, and that he has only from a sense of duty abstained from pressing to be removed although his stay has been prolonged far beyond his expectations.

3. The course proposed by Mr. Minchin is, in the Board's opinion, no more than reasonable if the Govrenment should think it necessary to retain Ragoonadha Row in Kurnool.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary.

KURNOOL July 11th 1864.

92. MY DEAR RAGOONADHA,

* * *

I congratulate you on having got acting promotion the other day, which was at last an instalment of what is due to you,

and a sign that the Government have not overlooked your services here.

I have no doubt that you will get on equally well in Trichinopoly as you did in Kurnool, but I doubt whether you will find your services so well appreciated by the public as they were here.

The works you took in hand, the People's Park, and the new street, are going on famously and will be a permanent Memorial of your useful influence in Kurnool.

I hope your career may be equally successful wherever you go, and for my own part at least, I can assure if I say that you and I will always retain a pleasant remembrance of our official connection.

Remember me very kindly to Harry Row and believe me your sincere friend.

(Signed) JAMES, INNES, MINCHIN.

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93. Extract of the Jamabundy Report of the Collector of Kurnool for 1273. 1864—1865.

I regret that the services of R. Ragoonatha Row should now be lost to Kurnool District, where he acquired the good will of all classes, which will not soon be forgotten.

No. 6805.

94. *PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.*
dated 15th October 1864.

Read the following letter from Æ. R. Mcdonell Esq., officiating Collector of Trichinopoly, to W. Hudleston Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Allor 24th September 1864. No. 205.

* * *

8. Ragoonatha Row who fixed the compensation in Tanjur and Kurnool is now here; he has already been much commended for the way in which he performed this work; he has a large landed property in Tanjore, and therefore well qualified personally to determine the value of land. I have consulted with him on the subject and he is quite willing to undertake the fixing of compensation for the remainder of the line; some 18 miles are already measured; so with the experience in this kind of work that Ragoonatha Row has already acquired, it would not take him long to complete the fixing of compensation and hand the land over to the Railway authorities. I propose this arrangement as best for the interests of Government and for my own satisfaction; and it will save further delay in making the land over, which will also save expense. Much must be left to the tact and discretion of the officer fixing the compensation, and Ragoonatha Row has already shown himself in every way worthy of such confidence; he will do this work quickly and satisfactorily; indeed I know of no one else to whom this business could be so well entrusted. I request

therefore that the authority granted to him in Tanjore and Kurnool may be extended to him in Trichinopoly also.

No 6,966.

95. *PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.*

dated 21st October 1864.

* *

2. Ragoonath Row's experience in these matters renders his services so valuable for the work, (of transferring land to the Great Southern of India Railway) that the Board have authorized the Collector to avail himself of them, arranging personally or by aid of his other Deputy for the temporary discharge of the Treasury work.

(True Copies and Extract)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary.

---

6. RAGOONATHA ROW.

Allow me to be one of the first persons to congratulate you on your permanent promotion to Second Class Deputy Collector.

(Your's very truly)

(Signed) Æ. R. McDONELL.

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7. MY DEAR SIR,

I am only now sending on your application for leave, though I know full well, that you have worked well and fully entitled to all consideration. I am so greatly obliged to you for all trouble you have so kindly taken, but I shall miss you very much if you leave before the Trichinopoly station ground is fixed; if you could wait on a few weeks more, I should feel very much more comfortable, but of course, if it is a matter of consequence to you to get away sooner, I must do what I can.

Kindly write me a line.

Your's truly.

May 12, 1865. (Signed) Æ. R. McDONELL.

PRINTED AT THE CHRONICLE PRESS TRICHINOPOLY.

Rio Pardo 9 de Fevereiro de 1867.

N. 335.

Illm. e Exm. Snr.

Remetto a V. Exc. a inclusa Portaria do Exm. Snr. Presidente da Provincia, pela qual V. Exc. verá a nomeação, que nella se faz, de Vm. para Tenente do Corpo de Cavallaria Provisoria, que se organisa nesta Fronteira.

Deos Guarde a V. Exc. muitos annos.

Illm. e Exm. Snr. Coronel Commandante Superior da Fronteira.

O Tenente Coronel Commandante Interino
Manoel Luiz Osorio

1. S. O. P. Rg. N. Cavalheiro de Rio Pardo 11 Fev.

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