M.R.O. 1—38,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2166 Press ~~Mis.~~

213-16.
Dated 14 - 8 - N 1848.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
14th August 1868.

Read the following :—

No. 213. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 14th January 1868, No. 238.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Salem, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 15th November 1867, No. 290.

1. I have the honor to bring to the notice of the Board that Puttakara Lutchma Gounden, the Jaghiredar of the Peria Colroyen Hills, has given to me a petition, translation of which is enclosed, praying that his Jaghire may be taken by Government on a permanent lease for 1,500 Rupees per annum, and to request the Board's orders in the matter.

2. The Inam Commissioner sent to my predecessor, on the 19th February 1866, a Register prepared by his Deputy Collector for the Peria Colroyen, and asked his opinion as to the fairness of the valuation proposed by the Deputy Collector for the village.

3. The Deputy Collector's valuation of both the cultivation and waste of the Hill was 1,680, of which he proposed a deduction of Rupees 420, or one-fourth of the entire beriz, on account of the Devastanams. On the remaining he recommended a quit-rent of one-fourth, or Rupees 315. According to an Order of Government quoted in the Inam Commissioner's letter, the quit-rent would be reduced to one-eighth.

4. A copy of the Inam Commissioner's letter and the Register of the Deputy Collector is enclosed.

5. The matter was referred to the Tahsildar who submitted to me a report on the subject. It was always a matter of complaint by the Forest Conservancy Department that valuable timber was cut clandestinely in Government jungles, and removed by parties holding the Jaghiredar's passes on the pretence that it was cut in the Jaghire jungles. Mr. Walker, the Deputy Conservator of Forests, endeavoured for a long time, in vain, to obtain the lease of the Jaghire jungles. In order that some arrangement might be made in this matter, and with a view of testing the valuation made by the Deputy Collector and the Tahsildar, I proceeded to the Hill myself together with Mr. Walker, and the petition above referred to, offering to lease out the Jaghire to Government, is the result of the personal communication I have had with the Jaghiredar.

6. The Peria Colroyen is a Division or Nad of the range of hills known as Colroyen Hills, and they extend from Toomul Mamangy in the Ahtur Talook eastward as far as Tumby Vadakondur, in the Kullakurchy Talook of the South Arcot District. The whole of the hills known as the Colroys is divided into five Nads or Estates; two of which, Peria Colroyen and Chinna Colroyen, are in this district, and the other three in the South Arcot District. These hills were never surveyed or assessed or brought into the revenue accounts. Their existence as Jaghires, in fact, was not known till a few years ago. Each Nad or Estate has a headman of its own, and he belongs to the Malyaly class. The present inhabitants of these hills seem to have come originally from Conjeveram. Their history is described in the Inam Deputy Collector's Register.

7. The Peria Colroyen Estate comprises thirty-one villages, and yields a revenue to the Jaghiredar of Rupees 918 on ploughs and hoes according to his

own statement; but he has no accounts to shew, and it is my belief that he underrated the income he derived from the lands, from a fear that a high quit-rent would be imposed. The forest products yield Rupees 200—total Rupees 1,118, as shewn in the enclosed Statement. The Jaghiredar wishes to lease his Jaghire for 1,500 Rupees a-year, and asks permission to retain 30 hoes and 30 ploughs in the three following villages:—

1. Shulangurchy.
2. Covilpoothoor.
3. Uduvangurchy.

His own residence is in the village of Covilpoothoor. I am of opinion that it would be advantageous for many obvious reasons to Government to accept this lease. I have been all over the hill, and find that there is a vast extent of waste land which could be brought under cultivation. Under a proper management, I have no doubt the present revenue will be more than doubled in a very few years. The want of proper accounts and supervision is the cause of the present income being so limited. The forest, too, ought to produce a considerable sum. The Jaghiredar has been duped in regard to this. Kristnama Naidoo, a native of Ahtur, who has great influence over the Jaghiredars, has obtained a lease of the entire forest for ten years, at 100 Rupees a-year. This lease has some six or seven years to run. Not only will the forest produce three or four times the amount paid by Kristnama Naidoo, but if the Government accept the lease offered by the Jaghiredar, a considerable amount of clandestine felling in existing Government jungles will be stopped.

8. The rate of assessment levied by the Jaghiredar upon each plough is 2 Rupees, and upon each hoe 1 Rupee. There are certain contributions made by the Jaghire ryots for religious purposes, and these, of course, the Jaghiredar will continue to receive.

9. I have not been able to see the proprietor of the Chinna Colroyen Estate. I will send a copy of the lease held by Kristnama Naidoo as soon as I receive it. I think the sooner this matter is taken up, and the sanction of Government obtained, the better.

To

C. N. POCHIN, Esq.,
Collector of Salem.

The humble Petition of LUTCHMANA GOUNDEN, Puttakar of Peria Colroyen Nad, in the Ahtur Talook.

1. The Government having proposed to have quit-rent fixed by the Inam Commissioner for my Poliyapett, I beg to state that I agree to make over the said Poliyapett to the Government, under condition hereinafter mentioned, in consideration of a money allowance.

2. The income now derived in the said Nad from Land Revenue, Tree-rent, and several sundry rents, and the professional income, amounts nearly to Rupees 1,100. I request you will obtain an order so that the income of Rupees 1,100, together with an addition of Rupees 400, be paid to me yearly in three instalments, from the Talook Treasury, Ahtur.

3. As I propose to lease to Government permanently the said Poliyapett for Rupees 1,500, I and my heirs agree to forfeit all our rights and claims to the incomes now derived from several sources in the Poliyapett, or to the income hereafter derived in any way. Government shall be at liberty to act as they choose. But I request, at the same time, that an order may be issued

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14*th August* 1868.

allowing me to continue to obtain that income which I get from the inhabitants according to the customs of caste on the occasions of Pongal and Depavalli feasts. This income is distinct from the income derived from land and trees.

4. I agree that the duty of maintaining my relations shall be with me, and the Government will have nothing to do with it.

5. I further wish that the 30 ploughs and 30 hoes which I have in three of the villages belonging to the said Poliyapett, namely, Shulangurchy, Covilpoothoor, and Uduvangurichi, may be exempted from revenue.

—— The mark of PUTTAKARA LUTCHMANA GOUNDEN.

Witnesses.

(Signed) PEDDAKUTTY PADAYACHI,
Zemindar of Sekattiputty Moottah.

(,,) TANAPADAYACHI,
Zemindar of do., do.

22*nd September* 1867.

(True Translation.)

(Signed) C. N. POCHIN,
Collector.

From the Officiating Inam Commissioner, to the Collector of Salem, dated Coimbatore, 19th February 1866, No. 217.

1. In forwarding a copy of the Deputy Collector's Register for the hill village of Peria Colroyen, in the talook of Ahtur, I have the honor to request the favor of your opinion as to the fairness of the valuation proposed by the Deputy Collector for the village.

2. Under the Order of Government,* dated 10th April 1862, No. 806, the village will be confirmed on one-eighth assessment, and not on one-fourth, as recommended by the Deputy Collector, and no allowance will be made on account of the alienations made by the holders of the village for religious or other purposes.

* Copy herewith forwarded.

3. Of the other two hill villages† in your district, the village of Nayakanur has been already settled by this Department, and application has been made for the attachment of the village of Chinna Colroyen, the holders of it having failed to appear before the Deputy Collector. The application for attachment was sent to your Office by the Deputy Collector of this Department on the 7th September 1864, and as one year has fully elapsed, I request that the village may be at once resumed, unless you see reason to excuse the defaulters, in which case the Register for that village should be prepared in due form and sent to this Office for the preparation of a Title Deed. If you fully assess the village, I request to be furnished with the estimated amount of its annual revenue.

† 1. Nayakanur.
2. Chinna Colroyen.

4. The Deputy Collector has not given the area of the village now proposed to be confirmed, and probably it is not possible to ascertain it. I request that the boundaries of the village may be clearly described in the Register, and returned to this Office for transcription in the Title Deed.

Enclosure No. 3.—Extract from the Inam Register.

Enclosure No. 4.—Statement.

The Board resolve to forward the above communication to the Conservator of Forests, and to request an expression of his views as to the proposal to take on lease the Peria Colroyen Nad or Estate, the Collector being of opinion that a great deal of clandestine felling in existing Government jungles would be prevented by such an arrangement.

No. 214. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 15th April 1868, No. 2,739.

Read the following letter from the Officiating Conservator of Forests, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Camp at Ootacamund, 12th February 1868, No. 544.

1. With reference to the Proceedings of the Board, No. 238, of the 14th ultimo, I have the honor to inform you that I am strongly in favor of Government leasing the Polyput of Peria Colroyen. The Deputy Conservator in charge of the Salem Range has expressed his views in his report, recorded in Government Order, No. 2,977, of the 14th December. The land revenue will, in a few years, I believe, alone cover the proposed rent of Rupees 1,500, and the forest revenue will be considerably increased after conservancy has been introduced.

2. I return the Statement and Extract from the Inam Register forwarded with the Board's Proceedings.

Enclosure No. 1.—Statement.

Enclosure No. 2.—Extract from Inam Register.

Before submitting the subject for the orders of Government, the Collector is requested to state how he proposes dealing with the lease of Kristnama Naidoo of the entire forest, and which has still seven years to run, as stated in the latter part of paragraph 7 of the Collector's letter, dated 15th November 1867, No. 290.

No. 215. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 18th July 1868, No. 5,233.
Read again Board's Proceedings, dated 14th January 1868, No. 238.
Do. do. ,, 15th April ,, ,, 2,739.

Read also the following letter from the Collector of Salem, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 28th April 1868, No. 107.

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Board's Proceedings under date the 15th instant, No. 2,739.

2. As regards the lease of Kristnama Naidoo, which from the document has still seven years to run, endeavours have been made to get him to come to terms, but without success.

3. The Peria Colroyen Jaghire now contains little or no timber, all having been cut. There are, however, young trees springing up which will eventually become useful. The fact of the Government taking the whole Jaghire on a permanent lease for 1,500 Rupees per annum will enable Government better to protect its own jungles. As matters stand now, the Forest Department are unable to cope against the tricking that is carried on. Vast number of trees are constantly being brought to Toomal by the under-contractors and the like of Kristnama Naidoo, and on being required to shew their authority for having cut the trees in their possession, they invariably present a pass furnished by this said Contractor. When the Jaghire comes under Government management, we shall then have our Revenue Officers to co-operate with the Forest Department, and be able to keep the Contractor and his subordinates within their proper limits. There is no doubt that the revenue, when properly looked after, will well remunerate the Government for the

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14th August 1868.

lease. The 100 Rupees now paid by Kristnama Naidoo will have to be paid to Government, so that the amount for the lease will only be 1,400 Rupees per annum.

1. The Board suggest that the Collector's proposal to rent on behalf of Government the Peria Colroyen Jaghire for a sum of 1,500 Rupees should be sanctioned.

2. It is true that the Estate is burdened by the lease to Kristnama Naidoo of the forest produce including timber, which lease has seven years to run.

3. The Board are of opinion, however, that the step is well calculated to lead eventually to the conservancy desired for these forests, as it will enable the Collector more effectually to supervise the operations of the Contractor, and it is not improbable that when the latter finds himself deprived of the illicit gains, which under the present lax system he enjoys, he may be disposed to accept fair terms for the outstanding portion of his lease.

No. 216. Order thereon, 14th August 1868, No. 2,166.

Forests No. 7.

1. Adverting to the object held in view by the Forest Department, it seems to the Government that very little will be gained by the arrangement now proposed by the Collector, unless the forests of both the Peria and Chinna Colroyen Polliems are obtained. The mere leasing of the cultivated villages of one of these Polliems by Government, as now proposed, while the forest tracts of both are in the hands of an independent forest Contractor, with a long lease, will be of very little benefit to the Forest Department. The arrangement would further have the additional disadvantage of leaving to Government the temporary management of the cultivated villages in the Polliem.

2. In paragraph 5 of G. O., 14th December 1867, No. 2,977, the Government, in reference to a representation made by Lieutenant Walker, Deputy Conservator of the Salem Range, as to the inconvenience occasioned to the Government Forest Department, owing to the forests in the Polliems in question being leased to Contractors, desired the Collector, in communication with the Conservator of Forests, to effect some arrangement for obtaining the control of the forests in both the Polliems. The Board will call the Collector's attention to this Order, and desire him to report what steps have been taken in reference thereto.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Officiating Conservator of Forests.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Revenue Department

Memo: for Orders.

C. A° 2447

In Lieutenant Walker's report on the western portion of the Colroyen Hills between the South Arcot and Salem Districts printed with G. O. under date 14 Dec. 1867 Pº 297 that Officer stated that the upper plateau of these Hills formed the two Pollioms styled Periá and Chinna Colroyen, and that great inconvenience was occasioned to the Govt. Forest Dept. owing to the forests in the Pollioms being leased to Contractors. He also stated

stated that these Contractors had recently claimed the forests on the slopes of the Hills as well as on the Summit, and he recommended that some arrangement should be made under which the control of the forests in these Pollinms should be vested in his Department. He, however, complained that the present contractor had a lease of the Peria Coltoyen Forests for 16 years & of the Chinna Coltoyen Forests for one and a half year.

The Govt in disposing of this paper called upon the Collector of Salem through the Dr of Revenue to report on the claims set up by the Poligar's Contractor to the timber on the slopes of the Hills, and directed him in communication with the Conservator of Forests to endeavour to effect some arrangement for obtaining the control of the forest tracts on the plateau. They at the same time observed that, without the cession to Govt of the present Contractors forest rights any lease by the Poligars would be

be valueless.

No reply to this order has been received from the Board, but they now submit for the favorable Consideration of Govt, a proposal from the Coll[r] of Salem that the offer of the Peria Kulroyen Poligar to lease his whole pollicim to Govt for Rs 1500 per annum be accep= =ted; Though the Coll[r] reports that he has failed to come to any terms with the Forest Contractor of the Pollicim whose lease has still seven years (not

(not 16 years as stated by Lieut. Walker) to run, the Board think the proposed arrange= =ment well calculated to lead eventually to the conservancy desired.

It seems to the undersigned, however, that very little will be gained unless the forests of both Pollicims are obtained. The mere leasing of the cultivated Villages of one Pollicim by Govt, while the forest tracts of both are in the hands of an in= =dependent forest Contractor with a long lease will be of very little benefit

to

to the Forest Departt.-

Perhaps the best way of disposing of the papers will be to ask what steps have been taken under the orders given in para 5 of G.O. 14th Dec/67 No. 2977 to obtain control of the Forests in both the Pollums and to observe that little would be gained under the partial arrangement now proposed by Mr. Pochin, which wants have the additional disadvantage of leaving to Govt. the temporary management of the cultivated Villages in the Pollums -

RDD.

Whether there be "pickings or no pickings, to push Lieut. Walker, the Revenue Servants of the Salem side should visit to the Hills on tour in and with good cause, I think. - A dumby taller object held in view by the Forest dept. it seems to me that the letting a lease for any one of the 2 Polliums would be of doubtful advantage. There will still be confusion of limits & timbers felled on Govt. ground will be declared to have been bought from the Polliums not under Govt. control. It will probably be a disadvantage to get the management of Revenue Ryotwary cultivated villages, unless we also get the other Polliums on lease - I would, as here X. postponed pro tem view as the Govt. & urge him to make his best endeavors in personally comg. with Chinna Colaya about the matter & report.

RDD

Memo. for Govt
regarding the Enquiry
sent to Extracts
of Certain Forest

2447

Sir

I am
directed to
request you
to refer to
your letter
No. 2166
dated the
14th August 1908
on the subject
of the
Enquiry
regarding
Certain
Forest
Rights
in the
Palliams
of the
Periya
and
Chinnar
Colonies
in the
Kottayam
District.

In reply
I am
directed
to say
that the
Government
are unable
to see
their way
to the
appointment
of a
Committee
to enquire
into the
matter
as
suggested
by you.
The
Government
are
advised
that
the
Forest
Rights
claimed
by the
Malayans
in the
Palliams
are
not
such
as
can
be
recognized
by
Law
and
that
the
Malayans
have
no
claim
to
the
land
itself.
The
Government
are
willing
to
grant
to
the
Malayans
the
right
to
cultivate
the
land
for
a
period
of
12
years
on
payment
of
a
fixed
annual
rent
of
Rs.
2
per
acre
for
wet
land
and
Re.
1
per
acre
for
dry
land
and
to
remit
the
rent
for
the
first
three
years
of
cultivation
in
order
to
encourage
the
Malayans
to
take
up
the
land
for
cultivation.
The
Government
are
also
willing
to
grant
to
the
Malayans
the
right
to
collect
minor
forest
produce
in
the
Palliams
on
payment
of
the
usual
royalty
and
to
allow
them
to
cut
timber
for
their
own
use

the forest tracts of both are in the hands of an independent forest contractor, with a long lease, will be of very little benefit to the Forest department. The arrangement would further have the additional disadvantage of leaving to Govt the temporary management of the cultivated villages in the Pollicem.

2. In para 5 of Go. No Dec.r 67 No 2977, the Govt, in reference to a representation made by Lieut.t Walker Dy.t Conservator of the Salem range as to the inconvenience occasioned to the Govt Forest dept. owing to the Forests in the Pollicem & in question being leased to contractors,

desired the Collr, in communication with the Conservator of Forests to effect some arrangement for obtaining the contracts of the presses in both the Pollicem's. The Board will call the Collector's attention to this order, and desire him to report what steps have been taken in reference thereto.—

To
The Board of Revenue Dept 16 S Opns 14 Dept 18
The Collr of Forests — N SC. 13 - Dept 18

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Revenue 1868 Dept.
Pro of Govt. for Augt.

No. 2166

Pro of the Madras Govt.
D/ 14th August 1868

Justices C No. 2792/68

From Boards Sept/68 C No. 3170
Boards Pro-14 November 1868
C No. 3590

Boards Pro: 3 Sept/70 C No. 2777.

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