M.R.O. 1—32,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1821 Press Mis.
(58-60)
Dated 28th June 19 1869

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 606. Read the following Proceedings of the Court of Wards, dated 20th May 1869, No. 3,497 :—

Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 22nd March 1869, No. 791A, Revenue Department.

RESOLVED that the foregoing Proceedings be communicated to the Collectors concerned for their information and guidance.

2. The Collector of the Godavery District will furnish the Court with the information called for by Government in the concluding part of paragraph 5 of their Order.

3. With reference to paragraph 7 the Collector of Tinnevelly will report as to the desirability of sending the Singamputty Minor to School. The report lately received from the Inspector of Schools showed a very unsatisfactory state of things, and the Court in their Proceedings, dated 2nd April 1869, No. 2,167, directed the Collector to engage a new Tutor. Even if the Minor does go to School, it will probably still be advantageous to give him a Teacher, who will assist him in his studies at home. The Collector will furnish the Court with the information called for by Government in the same paragraph as to the capabilities of the estate in regard to improving sources of irrigation, etc.

4. With reference to the forests included in the Singamputty Estate, the Court beg to submit copy of a letter from Mr. Puckle, dated 19th May 1868, No. 226 (paragraphs 6 to 13) recorded in Board's Proceedings, dated 4th July 1868, No. 4,915, which affords the necessary particulars as to the extent and capabilities of the forests in the estate. This question has formed the subject of a separate communication with reference to the orders of Government, dated 6th January 1868, No. 29. The Collector of Tinnevelly will furnish the Court in his future reports on Minor estates, with full particulars as to the Singamputty forests.

5. With reference to paragraph 8, the Court remark that the Naragunti Minor is now being instructed at home.* The Collector should report when and where he can be sent to school.

* Letter from Collector of North Arcot, dated 28th November 1868, No. 399, recorded in Court's Proceedings, dated 2nd February 1869, No. 707.

6. The attention of the Collectors concerned is called to the remarks made by Government in paragraph 8, with regard to effecting improvements in the estates under wardships. They should keep the subject in view and submit for sanction, annually, plans and estimates for such works as they may consider will be of permanent advantage to the estates, as often as the assets of the estate will fairly admit of the expenditure.

7. The Bodinaicknoor Minor continues to progress fairly† under his private Tutor, the Collector will however, report whether he considers anything can be gained by larger outlay on the youth's education.

† Letter from Collector of Madura, dated 20th November 1868, No. 313, recorded in Court's Proceedings, dated 23rd February 1869, No. 1,207.

8. With regard to the Irrigation project, referred to in paragraph 10, the Court remark that it is now doubtful whether the work is a failure after all. The Collector has applied for funds to proceed with it, and they have been supplied on

No. 3,497.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COURT OF WARDS, dated 20th May 1869.

Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 22nd March 1869, No. 791A.

Revenue Department:—

No. 568A. Read the following Proceedings of the Court of Wards:—

Submitting Report on management of Minors' estates under charge of Court, during Fusly 1276. } (Here enter 14th July 1868, No. 5,144.)

No. 568B. ORDER THEREON, 22nd March 1869, No. 791A.

Miscellaneous.

* Chemedu
Cassimcottah.

† Bungari.
Naraganti.
Singamputty.
Samatur and Kotamputty.

1. It appears that in 1866-67, there were 19 estates under the care of the Court of Wards. There had been only 17 estates in this position during the previous year, and of these, two* were made over to the proprietors who came of age in the year under report; but four† other estates were taken charge of by the Court for the first time, thus making up the number of estates under management to nineteen. Of these, however, one estate Lukkaveram, in the Godavery District, was made over to the proprietor in June 1867, or very shortly before the expiration of the year to which the Court's report refers.

2. The Government will first notice the position of those estates which have passed from the charge of the Court; they will then review the prospects of the four estates which were taken under control for the first time, and will conclude by noticing the other estates in the order of their importance.

3. CHEMEDU.—The Chemedu Estate, in the Vizagapatam District, came under charge of the Court in 1855, the average rental has risen during the Court's management from a little over Rupees 6,600, to about Rupees 8,000, the Peishcush payable to Government being Rupees 5,000. When the estate was first taken under management, the liabilities were upwards of Rupees 10,000, the whole of which amount has been paid off during the Court's administration. The only unsatisfactory point in the Court's management of this property is, that notwithstanding the constant and sustained efforts of Mr. Carmichael, the education of the Minor has proved almost a failure. This result is, however, ascribed to the natural dullness of his disposition.

4. CASSIMCOTTAH.—The Cassimcottah and Mellapauku Estates, in the same district, were first under charge in 1846, and were handed over to the Minor proprietor in 1863; but owing to his death, again came under management in 1865. The rental of these properties has considerably increased during the Court's management, and when handed over to the late proprietor, there was a surplus at his credit of nearly 66,000 Rupees, though an average annual outlay of nearly Rupees 4,000 had been incurred upon the irrigation works of the estates. A portion of this accumulation was expended in making certain endowments; but when the properties were lately made over to the present proprietrix, who is represented to be a well educated lady, quite able to manage her own property, they were in a highly solvent and satisfactory condition.

5. LAKKAVERAM.—The Lakkaveram Estate near Rajahmundry was placed in the Collector's charge in 1859. It has been profitably administered, as there was a credit of Rupees 30.000 when handed over, against a credit of Rupees 171 when taken under control. The Mimor who is reported to have been fairly educated at the Rajahmundry Zillah School, is preparing for his Matriculation Examination at the University. The Government will be glad to learn what success has attended the youth in his studies since he has assumed charge of his property.

6. BUNGARI.—Of the four estates which came under the control of the Court during the year to which their report relates, that of Bungari is a considerable property situated in the North Arcot District. It contains about 6,000 acres of cultivated land, of which about 2,000 acres are irrigated. The rental of the estate is about Rupees 40,000 per annum, and the tribute or Peishcush payable to Government is about Rupees 11,600. The proprietor has thus an income of a little

under Rupees 30,000 per annum, or Rupees 2,500 per mensem. The Minor proprietor is now in his 16th year, and will come of age in May or June 1871. He is being educated with his brother, aged 10, at the Chittoor Zillah School, but no report of his progress is given in the report under review. The Government are, however, aware that owing partly to an impediment in his speech, his studies have been considerably thrown back. It would probably therefore be useless to bring him to Madras for his education. When the estate came into the Court's hands, it was seriously involved. The amount reported to be due being nearly Rupees 30,000, but there were debts due to the estate, amounting to upwards of 19,000. The charges of the estate in the year under report were heavy, but the Court have rightly directed their reduction. The Government trust, that without exercising any undue economy in regard to the Minor's expenses, the Court will be enabled to hand over the estate to him without encumbrances in 1871.

7. SINGAMPUTTY.—The Singamputty Estate, in Tinnevelly, consists of an Amani village and certain puttah lands held in other villages. The rental appears to be about Rupees 26,000, and the Peishcush Rupees 8,008, leaving a gross income available for the proprietor of about Rs. 18,000 per annum or Rupees 1,500 per mensem. The Court have given judicious orders regarding the future management of the estate, and during the year to which their report refers, have paid off Rupees 9,041 of a debt of Rupees 45,469 which was due by the estate when it came under their charge. The balance of the debt will be discharged by instalments, a considerable sum having been paid during Fusly 1277, and arrangements having been made for payment of Rupees 4,000 per annum to the representative of the Oorkaud Estate, who is the principal creditor. The Minor proprietor is now in his tenth year, and has been for two years with a private tutor. He should now be sent to school if possible. He will not attain his majority until 1878, and the Government rely upon the Court to make as liberal an outlay on his education as may be necessary, and they would also suggest, that it be carefully considered whether any annual surplus which may accrue from the estate should not be expended in improving its sources of irrigation, thus making a permanent addition to the income rather than that it should be allowed to accumulate and be invested in Government funds. The Collector should be called upon to report as to the capabilities of the estate in regard to improvements, and the probable annual balance of income which will be available for such outlay. The Court should also report upon the capabilities of the Forests included in the estate. The Court's attention has already been drawn to this point, in the Government Order under date 11th April 1867, No. 845.

8. NARAGUNTI.—The Naragunti Estate, like that of Bungari, is a polliem in the North Arcot District. It appears that the rental should be about Rupees 20,000 per annum, with a Peishcush of about Rupees 6,600, leaving an income of Rupees 13,000 or a little over Rupees 1,000 per mensem, but that the late Poligar hypothecated a considerable portion of his income to the renters of villages for loans granted to him. The Collector has been properly directed by the Court to cancel any rents which are injurious to the estate, and to make a careful investigation into the debts alleged to be due by the estate, most of which are said to have been incurred in establishing the Minor's father's right to the property. The Minor is in his 9th year, and immediate measures should be taken for his proper education. In the charges of the estate, the Court have made no provision for repairs to irrigation works and new works. As a rule, a liberal per-centage of the gross income should be devoted to this purpose in all estates under the Court's management, when such an arrangement is feasible, and can be expended to the permanent advantage of the property. This estate, like that of Singamputty, is likely to be under charge of the Court until 1878, and it is hoped that both the Minor himself and his property will reap the full benefit of this prolonged wardship.

9. SAMATUR.—Samatur and Kottamputty are two small estates in the Coimbatore District, containing between 6,000 and 7,000 acres of cultivated land, assessed at about Rupees 8,000, and certain Amani villages, bringing up the income of the two properties to about Rupees 9,000. The Peishcush of the two estates is Rupees 3,544, leaving an income to the Minor proprietor of upwards of Rupees 5,400 per annum. There are also, however, considerable receipts from the Home farm which is in the Polligar's hands, and his income may therefore be put down at over Rupees 500 per mensem. The debts due by the estate amounted to nearly Rupees 10,000, when it was taken charge of by the Court. A portion of the amount was paid during the year under report by the Court, and a further portion during the last Fusly. The Minor is in his 12th year, and was under a private tutor at the time of the Court's report under consideration. The report by the Inspector of Schools was not favorable, and the Court have recently ordered him to be sent to the Anglo Vernacular School at Coimbatore. The youth will not come of age until 1875, so that it is hoped that he may receive a thoroughly good education before entering upon the management of his property.

10. PURLAH KIMEDY.—Of the estates which have been for some time under the wardship of the Court, by far the most important is, that of Purlah Kimedy, in Ganjam, which, owing to the mental incapacity of the proprietor, has been administered on his behalf ever since 1830. It consists of about 75,000 acres of cultivated land, besides waste and forests and some Shrotriem villages, and produces an income of 2¼ lacs of Rupees. The Peishcush is about Rupees 80,000, so that the income of the property is a little over Rupees 1,40,000. The management of the estate by the Court for so many years has, however, resulted in considerable accumulations in Government securities, the dividends from which largely increase the income of the incapacitated proprietor. The balance at credit of the estate has risen from about 10¼ lacs in 1862-63 to upwards of 12¼ lacs in 1866-67, and this too, while the average annual expenditure on public works during the last five years has been upwards of Rupees 50,000. It is to be regretted, that in the year under report by the Court, so large a sum as Rupees 15,328 should have been expended upon an Irrigation project which has since turned out to be impracticable, but, as observed by the Court, they could not have refused their sanction to a scheme which appeared, when submitted, to be fraught with such important benefits to the estate. The Survey of the estate has been completed, and the Forests belonging to it have been worked with success. The Court have also very properly drawn the Collector's attention to the expediency of opening out approaches to the Forest above the ghaut where the most valuable timber is found.

11. BODANAIKNOOR.—Of the estates under wardship, the next of importance to that of Purla Kimedy, is Bodinaiknoor, in the Madura District. It now comprises about 27,000 acres of cultivated land, of which 4,600 acres are irrigated, though five years ago the average under crop was under 22,000 acres. The rental is about Rupees 53,000 a year, and the Peishcush payable to Government is a little over Rs. 15,000, so that the income of the proprietor is over Rupees 38,000, or about Rs. 3,000 per mensem. The estate came under the control of the Court in 1863, and the Minor, is now ten years old. His property has been carefully administered by the Court, as he has upwards of a lac of Rupees now to his credit invested in Government securities. Owing, however, to the heavy expenses attendant upon the marriage of the Minor, which took place in the year to which the Court's report applies, and to an unusually large outlay on irrigation works, the expenditure of that year was in excess of the receipts. The average annual expenditure on irrigation works during the last five years has, however, been only Rupees 1,552, or about three per cent. on the income of the property. The Court should consider whether this expenditure might not be advantageously increased in future years, and also, whether it would not be advisable to make a larger outlay on the youth's education. His progress under a private tutor is, however, reported to be satisfactory.

12. MURANGAPURI.—The Bungari Polliem, in the North Arcot District, which is next in importance to the Bodinaiknoor Estate has been already noticed, and the fourth property on the list is that of Murangapuri, in the Trichinopoly District. It consists of about 26,000 acres of cultivated land, and has a gross rental of upwards of Rupees 41,000. The Minor will attain his majority this year. His property has been under charge of the Court since 1864. The estate has progressed financially since that time; the balance at credit in July 1867, having risen to Rupees 32,000 from Rupees 8,000 in 1864. The progress of the Minor's education has not been equally satisfactory. When the management of the estate was assumed, he was too backward to go to Combaconum School, but was sent there in September 1867. The last reports of his progress are, however, not encouraging.

13. Saptur.—The Saptur Estate, in the Madura District, has now a gross rental of upwards of Rupees 44,000 per annum. The Peishcush payable to Government is Rupees 8,813, leaving an income of more than Rupees 35,000 to the proprietor. The estate came under management in 1851 and was handed over to the Minor in October 1867. The financial administration of the property for the sixteen years during which it has been under the management of the Court of Wards has been highly satisfactory. When taken in charge there was no balance to the credit of the estate; the gross yearly income was under Rupees 18,000, and there was debt due by the property to the extent of Rupees 27,812. The debts have all been liquidated, the rental more than doubled, and the accumulation handed over to the Minor amounted to nearly 2½ lacs of Rupees. These satisfactory results are chiefly owing to the careful supervision of the property by the Court and to the liberal outlay which has been made upon roads and irrigation works. The Minor was sent to the Provincial School at Combaconum for his education, but his progress was not satisfactory, and during the last year of his Wardship he was permitted to reside in Madura with a private tutor under whom he made some progress. He is reported to be wanting in ability, but has done well in Arithmetic; can make translations from Tamil to English and *vice versa*, and can read an easy English book.

14. Meniachi.—The Meniachi property, in Tinnevelly, came under the control of the Court in March 1866, and though it then yielded a rental of nearly Rupees 30,000 and only paid Rupees 10,000 as Peishcush, it was found to be involved to the extent of upwards of Rupees 1,70,000. Since the assumption of the management of the estate by the Court, it has changed hands under a decree of the Civil Court, but the present proprietor being also a Minor, the property continues to be under charge of the Court. The present proprietor is ten years old, and with his brother, is under private tuition. The Court of Wards have sanctioned the division of the estate into three portions, in view to the sale of two of these, for the purpose of paying off the debts, but the Collector has submitted proposals which are under consideration, by which a considerable sum may be realized by the sale of an out-lying village, puttah lands attached to the estate in other villages, and the puttah right in some of the estate lands. There was a considerable balance due to the estate at the end of the year under review, but it is found that much of this is irrecoverable, being the old arrears of previous years. The debts due to the estate are also not likely to be realized.

15. Neikaraputy.—The rental of this property in the Madura District, is on the average about 21,000 Rupees a year, and about 11,000 Rupees is payable by the proprietor to Government. His income, is, therefore, about Rupees 10,000 per annum. The Minor is now 14 years old, and will come of age in 1872. The management of his property was lately made over to his mother, under the orders of the Home Government. When the property came under the charge of the Court, there was but Rupees 12,300 to the credit of the estate, whereas there is now Rupees 60,000. The financial management of the Court has thus been successful. The progress of the Minor's education has, however, not been equally satisfactory, and the Collector's endeavours to have the youth brought to the Madura School have been opposed by his mother, on the grounds that a change of residence would be inconvenient. The Court consequently permitted the youth to remain at the Pulni School, on condition of a tutor, on a salary of Rupees 30 per mensem, being specially employed to assist him in his studies. The Court should at once ascertain what success has attended this arrangement, and should, if necessary, insist on the Ward's education being completed at the Madura School.

16. Jalantra.—The Jalantra Estate, in Ganjam, came under the Court's charge in 1860, and the Minor is now between eight and nine years old. The average rental of the estate is about 18,000 Rupees per annum and the Peishcush Rupees 7,000, leaving a net income to the Minor of Rupees 11,000. The estate has been judiciously managed, a surplus of Rupees 32,000 has accrued to credit, although the outlay on irrigation works has averaged Rupees 1,500 per annum during the last five years. The capabilities of the estate in regard to new irrigation works, or improvements to existing works should be investigated, and special attention should now be paid to the Minor's education. It is not probable that the character of the instruction imparted at the School alluded in the Court's report, will be sufficiently high to justify the Minor being kept there.

17. Barwah.—The Barwah Estate, in Ganjam, has an average rental of 13,000 Rupees a year, with a Peishcush of about Rupees 8,000. The receipts have hitherto been about Rupees 1,000 per annum in excess of the charges, and there is now Rupees 16,192 at the credit of the estate. The estate came under the management of the Court ten years ago, and one of the two Minors will be of age during the present year. The progress of the education of these Minors cannot be viewed as satisfactory, and it is to be regretted that a larger annual outlay has not been incurred for this purpose.

18. Beredy.—The Beredy Estate, in Ganjam, which will be handed over to the proprietor in the present year, came under charge of the Court in 1859. It had Rupees 18,000 at credit at the end of the year under review. The education of the Minor has, however, not been a success, though every endeavour has been made by the Court which was within the means of the property.

19. Andiputti.—The Andiputti Estate, in Coimbatore, consists of about 16,000 acres of cultivated land, with a yearly rental of about Rupees 13,000, and a Peishcush payable to Government of Rupees 5,166. The estate was taken under control in 1860, and handed over to the proprietor in 1868. When the Court assumed charge, the debts due by the estate amounted to Rupees 20,000, which sum has been paid off during the wardship of the Minor, and a sum of Rupees 9,000, accumulated surplus, has been handed over to him. His education has also been fairly conducted, and he is reported to have been instructed in all the duties of a landlord.

20. Royempetta.—The Royempetta Minor, in Tanjore, attained his majority last year. The estate is a small one, and though its financial management during the 9 years it has been under the Court's charge, has resulted in a surplus of nearly Rupees 20,000 to credit, the education of the Minor has been any thing but successful, though it has been carefully attended to by the Court and their local agents.

21. In addition to the estates noticed above, the Court have managed in the year under review the three small estates of Nelliallem, Erungoducottah and Nullamillipadu in the Districts of Malabar, Madras and Godavery. These properties have all been satisfactorily administered during the year, and proper attention has been paid to the education of the Minors.

22. The Government regret to have to observe that, from the foregoing review, it would appear that although in every case the financial administration of the Court has been highly satisfactory, the education of the Minor proprietors of most of the estates which have recently been transferred to their owners, has rarely been attended with success. The cases of the Chemedu, Marangapuri, Saptur and Royempettah Minors may be instanced.

23. It is hoped, however, that greater success may attend the Court's efforts in regard to the education of those Minors who are still under their charge. The incomes of the Minors of Bodinaiknoor, Singamputty, Naragunti, Neikaraputy and Jalantra are sufficiently large, ranging as they do from £4,000 to £1,000 per annum, to permit of a very liberal outlay being made in the education of the Minor proprietors.

24. The special attention of the Collectors of districts in which the estates under wardship are situated, should be drawn to the vital importance of imparting to these wards of the State a sound education, and the Government trust that the personal attention of these gentlemen will be turned to the matter. If any success is to be obtained, it must result from the exhibition of a personal interest by the European Officers of Government.

(True Extract.)

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

Resolved that the foregoing Proceedings be communicated to the Collectors concerned for their information and guidance.

2. The Collector of the Godavery District will furnish the Court with the information called for by Government in the concluding part of paragraph 5 of their Order.

3. With reference to paragraph 7, the Collector of Tinnevelly will report as to the desirability of sending the Singamputty Minor to School. The report lately received from the Inspector of Schools showed a very unsatisfactory state of things, and the Court in their Proceedings, dated

2nd April 1869, No. 2,167, directed the Collector to engage a new Tutor. Even if the Minor does go to School, it will probably still be advantageous to give him a Teacher, who will assist him in his studies at home. The Collector will furnish the Court with the information called for by Government in the same paragraph as to the capabilities of the Estate in regard to improving sources of irrigation, etc.

4. With reference to the Forests included in the Singamputty estate, the Court beg to submit copy of a letter from Mr. Puckle, dated 19th May 1868, No. 226 (paragraph 6 to 13) recorded in Board's Proceedings, dated 4th July 1868, No. 4,915, which affords the necessary particulars as to the extent and capabilities of the forests in the estate. This question has formed the subject of a separate communication with reference to the Orders of Government, dated 6th January 1868, No. 29. The Collector of Tinnevelly will furnish the Court in his future reports on Minor estates, with full particulars as to the Singamputty forests.

5. With reference to paragraph 8 the Court remark that the Naragunti Minor is now being instructed at home.* The Collector should report when and where he can be sent to school.

* Letter from Collector of North Arcot, dated 28th November 1868, No. 399, recorded in Court's Proceedings, dated 2nd February 1869, No. 707.

6. The attention of the Collectors concerned is called to the remarks made by Government in paragraph 8, with regard to effecting improvements in the estates under wardships. They should keep the subject in view and submit for sanction, annually, plans and estimates for such works as they may consider will be of permanent advantage to the estates, as often as the assets of the estate will fairly admit of the expenditure.

7. The Bodinaicknoor Minor continues to progress fairly† under his private Tutor, the Collector will however, report, whether he considers anything can be gained by larger outlay on the Youth's education.

† Letter from Collector of Madura dated, 20th November 1868, No. 813, recorded in Court's Proceedings, dated 23rd February 1869, No. 1,207.

8. With regard to the Irrigation project, referred to in paragraph 10, the Court remark that it is now doubtful whether the work is a failure after all. The Collector has applied for funds to proceed with it, and they have been supplied on the condition that the Superintending Engineer's professional opinion is in favor of the project.

9. Paragraph 15.—The Neikaraputy Minor is doing well under his Tutor. Mr. Bliss, the Acting Sub-Collector, who examined the lad in June last, speaks highly of his intelligence.

10. The attention of the Acting Collector of Ganjam is called to the remarks of Government in paragraph 16 and 17. He should inquire what progress the Jalantra Minor is making under the Tutor recently sanctioned by the Court, and report as to whether any improvement can be effected in the means adopted for educating the Barwah Minors.

11. The special attention of the Collector is called to the concluding paragraph of the Order of Government. The Court are aware of the difficulties with which Collectors have to contend, and the little assistance which they receive from the relatives of their Wards, but much can be done by personal influence and unremitting attention to the subject.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Sub-Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
with copy of Board's Proceedings, dated 4th July 1868, No. 4,015.

Copy to the Acting Collector of Ganjam.
" to the Collector of the Godavery District.
" to the Collector of Madras.
" to the Collector of North Arcot.
" to the Collector of Tanjore.
" to the Collector of Trichinopoly.
" to the Collector of Madura.
" to the Acting Collector of Tinnevelly.
" to the Collector of Coimbatore.
" to the Acting Collector of Malabar.

Exd. G. A. Turton.

No. 4,915.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 4th July 1868.

Read the following letter from R. K. PUCKLE, Esq., Collector of Tinnevelly, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 19th May 1868, No. 226:—

1. In reply to the Board's Proceedings, No. 1,796, dated 11th March 1868, I have the honour to inform you that there are two Zemindary Forests in this district that specially require Government management; one of these is attached to the Singamputty, and the other to the Chokamputty estate, both in the Sub-division.

2. As there are no villages on the hills in this district, the use of the hills by the low-country villagers has continued from time immemorial. Cattle-grazers and wood-cutters have wandered about unchecked, and the people of the villages, at the foot of the hills, have come to regard some ten or twenty square miles of hill and forest above them as part of their several villages. The Ryotwary villagers base no claim of proprietary right on this unchecked occupation, and I have found no difficulty in restricting their grazing and wood-cutting to the low spurs in their immediate vicinity; but the Zemindars put forward claims to the whole range of forest-clad mountains at the back of their several villages, and no attempt has yet been made to interfere with these claims, or to ascertain their legality; the forests the Zemindars claim are all on the mountain side; are totally uninhabited and extend far beyond the limits required by any low-country village for grazing or firewood cutting. There is no mention of them made in the Istimirar Sunnuds, nor do the Zemindars pay any royalty for the hillside or its products.

3. Occupation, no doubt, commenced in the same way as in the Ryotwary villages, and in the early days of British rule, when the country was settling down, no one ever thought of the forests except to wish them cleared. For they not only covered the hillsides, but extended far into the plains; and cultivated fields some miles from the hills are pointed out as having been covered with forest within the memory of man. Both the Singamputty and Chokamputty Zemindaries are roughly set down in our earliest maps as "Poligars' country," and being at the very foot of the hills on our frontier, and out of the way of traffic, no thought was taken of the hundreds of square miles of forest that lie between this district and Travancore.

4. This state of things is altered now; the resources of the Zemindaries and of the hills behind them are perfectly well-known; the plains are so highly cultivated that timber must be cut on the Hills, as it is not procurable elsewhere; the demand for water is so great that it is of the first importance to protect the heads of the streams, and the establishment of a Forest Department has drawn attention to the Zemindars' claims to enormous tracts of uninhabited country.

5. It is true that the Zemindars have exercised landlord's rights on the hills though without permission to do so, and that many years have been allowed to elapse without any interference whatever on the part of the Government Officers; this may or may not confer a right, and I think it would be well to take legal advice in the matter.

6. SINGAMPUTTY FOREST.—In one of the cases reported, the Zemindar is a minor under the management of the Court of Wards, and will so remain for the next nine years. The forest now yields 13,910 Rupees, and the whole of the estate in the low lands yields but 19,826 Rupees; the peishcush is 8,008 Rupees, or about one-fourth of the revenue, and it is very unlikely that fifty square miles* of forest were knowingly thrown in for the free use and benefit of an estate of which only eight square miles are assessed.

* It is given as fifty square miles in the accounts, but the whole area claimed is said to be nearer 200 square miles.

7. The Zemindar rents out the forest, and the object of the renter is, of course, to get as much as possible out of it during the term of his rent. This forest clothes the mountains between the heads of the Tambrapurni and Manimuktanadi rivers, and every tree cut down or burnt is so much loss to our rivers.

8. The Tambrapurni is the only river south of the Cauvery that has a continuous flow throughout the year; it never has been known to run dry, but its volume has decreased of late years.

9. I have already reported the damage done to the forests generally, and the measures adopted to check it in Government villages, but conservancy should be thorough; it is not sufficient to conserve one hill and neglect another adjoining; the whole chain of hills should be under one management, and we should have full control over all the water on which our welfare depends.

No. 513, dated 11th October 1867.

10. If the Government is not prepared to dispute the claims of the Zemindars, it would be well worthwhile to rent these forests; it is true that the Zemindars refused to rent them in 1864, but there is no objection now; the Singamputty estate is under management, and the Court of Wards would rather rent to Government than to an individual, while the Chokamputty estate has been broken up and the villages sold in lots.

Board's Proceedings, dated 17th December 1864.

Fusly.	Amount. Rs	A	P
1264	2,000	0	0
1265	2,000	0	0
1266	2,000	0	0
1267	2,000	0	0
1268	0	0	0
1269	0	0	0
1270	2,927	11	9
1271	3,716	11	6
1272	3,550	0	0
1273	3,586	10	0
1274	3,600	0	0
1275	3,600	0	0
1276	6,350	0	0
1277	13,941	0	0

11. The rates at which the Singamputty Forest has been let by the Zemindar as far back as can be traced are shown in the marginal statement.

12. Last year's rent was run up by ill-will between two individuals, and it is hardly likely ever to reach so high a figure again.

13. Government are about to build an anicut, at Strivycuntam, at a cost of some seven lacs of Rupees; and the protection of the head of the river is absolutely necessary should it involve the outlay. It will bring in a direct return; the forest is easily worked and might be made to pay; judicious planting will do much for it when cultivation and burning are stopped, and the sub-rents for natural products abandoned. The present rent expires at the end of the current Fusly; so I request to be favoured with orders at as early a date as possible.

While writing this I have received a report that 300 acres of forest have been burnt within the last few days.

14. Vyravankolam Forest.—The case of the Vyravankolam Forest is different. The Chokamputty Zemindar was once powerful enough to defy even the British Government, and in the troubled times that preceded British rule, he managed to add a rich block of land to his estate under the name of Vyravankolam; it is an uninhabited village though cultivated, and as it touches the hills at one point, the Zemindar lays claim to all that part of the hills to the exclusion of Krishnapuram and Kadayanellur, two Government villages which skirt the foot of the hills for miles.

15. The Zemindar's claim has formed the subject of repeated inquiry, but nothing has ever come of it; three different Tahsildars have reported in three different ways. The arguments for the Zemin and Government villages are very much the same; both the Zemindar and Government ryots hold land on the hills, and the hills have at different times been treated as Government and Zemin property; the Zemindar points to a gateway which shows his ancestors once had a fort there, but the Government ryots reply that this proves no more than that his ancestors were robber Chiefs, and it is well-known that such Chiefs had forts on the most inaccessible places. The Zemindar, however, always contrived to assert his claims by the strong hand, and having a body of men on the look out, he exacted fees for wood-cutting, grazing, etc., as long as he held the estate; it was attached in 1836 and restored in 1859, but has been so mismanaged since that it has now been attached again and half of it sold by the Court.

16. The other forests of the Chokamputty Zemindary are considerably to the north of Vyravankolam, and Government Forests intervene between them and Vyravankolam.

17. The Manager in charge of the estate asserts the Zemindar's claims as under—

I. That the Zemindar has a puttah for land on the hill.

II. That this hill was once rented out as forming part of the Chokamputty estate.

III. That when the Zemin was sold in 1836, the cultivation on the hill was measured in with other lands in Vyravankolam; and

IV. That the assessment on the Zemindar's coffee garden is included as an asset of Vyravankolam.

18. There is nothing, however, in this; if the Zemindar holds a puttah on the hill, the Government ryots do so also; if the hill was once rented out as part of the Zemin, it has also been rented out as Government property. When the Zemin was sold for debt, it was natural that all lands claimed by the Zemindar should be measured in as part of the property, and the Zemindar's coffee garden on the hill was thus included in his nearest village.

19. The hill is included in the Ayacut account of the Government village of Kadayanellur; the authenticity of this account is disputed; but the Zemindar's Ayacut account does not show that the hill forms part of his village.

20. With the Singamputty and Vyravankolam Forests in our hands, we secure the heads of the streams throughout the whole length of the Sub-division excepting where the Travancore territory extends to this side of the hills; but as the Travancore Forest is well conserved, we cannot do more for it than already is done. The Zemindary Forests north of the Sub-division in the Sankaranarkovil and Strivilliputtur talooks do not affect streams of importance, and I have not, therefore, alluded to them.

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1. The Collector mentions two Zemindary Forests in the district regarding which the Zemindars' rights are doubtful, namely, Chokamputty and Singamputty. In alluding to the former in paragraph 10, he states that the estate has been broken up, and the villages sold in lots.

2. The Board wish to be informed whether these lots have included any forests, and especially whether the Zemindary rights to the disputed Vyravankolam Forests, described in paragraphs 14 to 19, have been sold.

3. Regarding the Singamputty Zemindary Forests, which the Collector states as nominally extending over fifty square miles, but in reality occupying an area of 200 square miles, the Board wish to be furnished with copy of an order believed to have been in force since the time of Mr. E. B. Thomas restricting within certain limits the Zemindary enjoyment of the right of felling timber, as well as of any correspondence between the Zemindar and Collector relating thereto.

4. They also wish to know in what accounts fifty square miles are shown as belonging to the estate, and whether the block can be identified.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) A. MacGREGOR,
Acting Secretary.

To the Collector of Tinnevelly.

Exd. J. Wright.

Court of Wards,
MADRAS.

1869.

PROCEEDINGS, 20TH MAY 1869, No. 3,497.

MAY.

No. 3,497.

Minors' Estates—under charge of Court of Wards.—Proceedings of Government reviewing report on management of —, during Fusly 1276, communicated to all Collectors with remarks. Letter from Collector of Tinnevelly containing particulars as to extent and capabilities of forests in Singampatti estate and information on certain other points noticed by Government, submitted to Government.

1868. Department.

No. 1821/69

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 4th July 1868.

No. 4,915.

Requesting Collector of Tinnevelly to furnish certain information respecting Zemindary Forests of Chokamputty and Singamputty proposed to be taken under Government management.