M.R.O. 1—34,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2402. Press

347.48

Dated 26th August 1869.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
24th August 1869.

No. 347. Read the following Proceedings of the Court of Wards, dated 22nd July 1869, No. 5,276 :—

Read the following letter from the Officiating Collector of Madura, to the Acting Secretary to the Court of Wards, dated Paumben, 7th May 1869, No. 153.

I HAVE the honour to furnish a report on the two petitions* submitted to Government and the Board by the mother of the Bodinaickanoor Minor, complaining of the present management of the zemindary under the Court of Wards, and praying that the management be made over to her and one of her deceased husband's brothers.

* Nos. 2,631 and 73 of 1868.

Vide Court's Proceedings, dated 15th August 1865, No. 4,898.

2. As the contents of petition No. 2,631 is included in petition No. 73, I shall confine my attention to the latter, which I propose to report on paragraph by paragraph.

3. Paragraph 3 refers to a person who was appointed to manage the zemindary in 1863; he was never permitted to take charge of the office.

4. Paragraph 4 seems to be a general complaint against the issue of puttahs; this was done about five years ago, and has caused a great improvement in the circumstances of the zemindary. Those lands which were cultivated by the Zemindar and his family themselves up to the time of his decease still remain in the possession of the family, and they are the only lands to which the term *Pannai* properly applies.

5. It is true that the Zemindar expended a large sum of money in improving the irrigation works of his zemindary, but there is nothing to show that any special agreement was on that account made by the ryots holding the lands benefited thereby, to pay an additional sum of 5 Rupees every five years for their holdings, and the lands are now fairly assessed, paying on an average about 6 Rupees 3 Annas a-cawny.

6. The topes alluded to in paragraph 6 used, under the management of the Zemindar, to produce a revenue of Rupees 96-6-7. They have now been made over on land-tax to the former holders, who pay a yearly rent of Rupees 146-6-5 for them.

7. The statement contained in paragraph 7 appears to be substantially true. With regard to paragraph 8, I am of opinion that the present Manager is not all that could be desired, but it must be remembered that his pay is small, his tenure of office precarious, and that service in his present office does not entitle him to pension. When I visited the zemindary, I have had no serious complaints against him, and altogether, I think, he is as good a Manager as can be expected for the money.

8. With regard to paragraphs 9 and 10 I am of opinion that the management of the property by the Court of Wards is highly advantageous to the proprietor and his tenants. Since we have assumed charge of the estate, its income has increased by at least 6,700 Rupees a-year, and as the people seem to be contented and prosperous under the present administration, I would strongly advocate its continuance.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 1 and 2.—Petitions.

SUBMITTED to Government with reference to their endorsement on petition No. 1,866, (Board No. 73) of 1868.

2. The petitioner, the mother of the Bodinaickanoor Minor, complains that the management of the estate since it was taken charge of by the Court of Wards has been bad and oppressive, and that revenue has been wantonly sacrificed by the Managers. She accordingly requests that the estate may be given up to her.

3. The renting out of topes and granting of puttahs, by which the Managers are said to have diminished the resources of the estate, were measures adopted not by them on their own authority, but in accordance with the usual policy of the Court of Wards, which is based on the revenue administration of the Presidency. The efficiency of the new system is shown by the steady increase of revenue which has followed on its introduction. In examining the figures given in the margin, which show the current land revenue demand since the estate was taken charge of in Fusly 1272, it must be remembered that in Fusly 1277 the disastrous character of the season necessitated a special remission of twenty per cent. on the demand, or Rupees 9,808. The income of the estate has increased, the Collector states, by at least Rupees 6,700. The balance at the credit of the estate at the close of Fusly 1277 was Rupees 1,56,374. The people are reported to be prosperous and contented. The Minor, a boy ten years old, is said to be a promising lad, and to be making fair progress under his private tutor.

	Rs.
Fusly 1272...	44,449
,, 1273	47,379
,, 1274...	50,502
,, 1275...	52,161
,, 1276...	52,810
,, 1277...	43,217

4. The Court desire to have a more detailed report with regard to the petitioner's allegation that revenue has been lost by changing grain-rents into money-rents on lands which she improperly terms "Punnai."

5. The choice of Managers for the estate was unfortunate in the case of Sundrasawmy Aiyan and Rungasawmy Naick. The former was a Government servant of nine years' standing, and had had considerable experience in the management of estates in wardship; but he laid himself open to censure on more than one occasion, and was dismissed without ever entering upon the Bodinaickanoor office to which he had been nominated by the Collector before his last error—a neglect to prevent and report a trespass on another estate of which he was Manager—had come to light. The latter was strongly recommended to the Court, and was dismissed immediately the Court were informed of his ignorance and drunkenness.

Court's Proceedings, dated 4th March 1863, No. 1,326.

Court's Proceedings, 7th April 1864, No. 2,065.
Do. 20th July 1865, ,, 4,217.

6. With regard to paragraph 4 of the petition, the Collector will report who Pathaiyah Aiyen is. The Court's records show that the first Manager was Doraisawmy Pillay, and that he was succeeded on his death by Rungasawmy Naick.

7. The only definite complaint brought against the present Manager, Ragunada Iyengar, who was appointed after consulting the guardian, though without any expression of opinion from him, is that he exacts fees. With regard to this point the Collector states that he has had no serious complaints against the man, and thinks he is as good a Manager as can be got for the money (Rupees 50 a-month). This is not sufficient. The Collector should call upon the petitioner and the guardian of the Minor to inform him definitely of instances of such exaction, and if they do so, should sift them thoroughly. He should also consider and report whether it is necessary, in the interest of the Minor, to obtain a better Manager than the present one, and if so, at what salary his services can be secured. The Court observe, however, that the antecedents of Ragunada Iyengar, as they have been reported, are just of the description that could be desired.

Court's Proceedings, 20th July 1865, No. 4,217.
Do. 29th Sept. ,, ,, 6,131.

8. The Court are satisfied that the petition of the Minor's mother is not well founded, and that being dissatisfied with her position as a pensioner on the estate instead of its mistress, she desires to get possession of it in order to increase her state and dignity at the expense of the Minor. They consider it very desirable that she should be distinctly told, that although all representations from her as to the management of the estate will be received with respect and considered with attention, there is no hope whatever that the property will be placed in her hands as was done, under very special circumstances, in the case of the Neekaraputty estate. The Minor does not attain his majority till 1876.

No. 348. ORDER THEREON, 24th August 1869, No. 2,402.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government concur in the proceedings of the Court of Wards under review.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Court of Wards.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

No. 2,065.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COURT OF WARDS, dated 7th April 1864.

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of Madura, dated 19th March 1864, No. 71 :—

1. The Manager's post at Bodinaikinoor, an Estate now under the Court's wardship, has become vacant by the decease of Doraisamy Pillai. I do myself the honor to request the Court's sanction to appoint one Rungasamy Naick to this post.

Rungasamy Naik was, as the Court will see, formerly Town Police Ameen in Trichinopoly: he was dismissed from that post, but the Government, though they would not order his restoration to the post, passed an order stating there was no objection to his re-employment in any situation for which he may be thought fit.

3. He never served under me during the time I was Collector and Magistrate of Trichinopoly, so personally I know nothing of him; however this much I may say I have often been requested by people in the Trichinopoly Town to restore him to the situation he was dismissed from, as he had shown himself so able an officer.

4. He has very good testimonials which I enclose for perusal, he seems a respectable man, energetic and hardworking. Under these circumstances I request the Court will confirm the nomination. I have sent him off to the Estate as it is the busy season with the annual settlement approaching.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—List.

The Court of Wards confirm the nomination reported.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary.

To Æ. R. McDonell, Esq., Acting Collector of Madura,
with original Testimonials returned.

Rd. J. Wright.

1864. Department.

No.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 7th April 1864.

No. 2,065.

Confirming the nomination of Rungasawmy Naick as Manager of the Bodinaikanur Estate.

No. 4,217.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COURT OF WARDS, dated 20th July 1865.

Read the following letter from V. H. LEVINGE, Esq., Collector of Madura, to R. A. DALYELL, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Court of Wards, dated 17th June 1865, No. 150 :—

1. I have the honor to request the permission of the Court of Wards to dismiss Rungasawmy Naick, the Manager of Bodinaickanoor, under the following circumstances.

2. On the 11th May, the Manager, wishing to give some food to the Minor, went with it to the Minor's house, entered it, and forced the food down the Minor's throat against the child's wish ; the child's mother came to see what was going on, the Manager went towards her, he followed her into the house, and there abused her; he was drunk at the time. I have had frequent complaints against the Manager for drunkenness, and am of opinion he should not be allowed to remain in the appointment ; besides, he is quite ignorant of revenue work.

3. As a successor, I beg to recommend Ragunada Iyengar, who was a Tahsildar, and in other posts in the Shevagunga Zemindary for many years, and served under the Court of Wards ; he was removed by Mr. Fischer merely because he was a relative of the late Manager of Shevagunga. He is a respectable man, and understands his work. I have known him now for some time, and can recommend him.

The Manager should be at once dismissed for his disgraceful conduct. The Board desire to know whether the appointment of Ragunada Iyengar, as his successor, will be acceptable to the Minor, and his relatives, before sanctioning his nomination. It has been stated that when employed under the Court of Wards on a former occasion he was dismissed ; and if so, it would certainly not be desirable to employ him again. The Court attach the highest importance to securing the services of men of approved character for these responsible offices.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

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

To V. H. Levinge, Esq., Collector of Madura.

Exd. J. Wright.

1865. Department.

No.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COURT OF WARDS.

Dated 20th *July* 1865.

Despatched

Received

No. 4,217.

Directing the dismissal of Rungasawmy Naick from the post of Manager of Bodinaickanoor Estate, and desiring to know whether the appointment of Ragunada Iyengar as his successor will be acceptable to the Minor and his relatives.

No. 6,131.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COURT OF WARDS, dated 29th September 1865.

Read the following letter from V. H. LEVINGE, Esq., Collector of Madura, to R. A. DALYELL, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Court of Wards, dated 28th August 1865, No. 225:—

1. With reference to the Proceedings of the Court marginally noted, and the endorsement on the Board Petition No. 1,904 of 1865, (herewith returned,) I have the honor to report, that I have in no part of my letter, No. 150, dated 17th June 1865, stated that Ragunada Iyengar was dismissed when employed under the Court of Wards, nor was he in fact removed so as stated in the Board petition. After the Zemindary of Shevagungah was put in possession of the present Zemindary according to the decision of the Privy Council, Ragunada Iyengar, the late Tirupattur Tahsildar, was on a sudden ordered to give over charge of the money, &c., on hand, and appear in the Manager's office through ill-feeling between the late Manager (a relative of Ragunada Iyengar,) and Mr. Fischer. Ragunada Iyengar, unwilling to remain longer in the service, did not appear before the Manager, and is ever since without employ. A translation of an order issued to Ragunada Iyengar by the Manager of Shevagunga is enclosed.

20th July 1865.
15th August " No. 4,693.

2. I directed the guardian to report whether the appointment of Ragunada Iyengar as Manager would be acceptable to the Minor and his relatives, and the guardian in reply merely says that they pray for the restoration of the Estate.

3. I am not inclined to support their solicitations, but to recommend the continuance of the management of the Estate under the Court's care in due regard to the interests of both the Minor and of the Ryots, as reported in my letter of the 17th July 1865, No. 171.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

ABSTRACT.—Translation of a Takeed issued to Ragunada Iyengar.

1. On the recommendation of the Collector, the Court sanction the appointment of Ragunada Iyengar as Manager of Bodinaickanoor.

2. Referring to paragraph 3 of their Proceedings under date the 15th August last, No. 4,898, the Court observe that they have recently* issued instructions regarding the survey of the Estate.

* Proceedings, 29th September 1865, No. 6,129

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

To V. H. Levinge, Esq., Collector of Madura.

Ed. J. Wright.

Revenue Department

Fr. 2402.

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 24th August 1869.—

Read the following
Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Submitting report on Govt. Petition No. 1866 of 1868 from the mother of the Minor Zemindar of Bodinaickanoor, in Madura District, complaining of the present management of the Zemindary, under Court of Wards, and praying that its management may be made over to her and two of her deceased husband's brothers.— (Recd. ex. 22d July 1869. No. 5276.)

Will

The Government concurs in the Proceedings of the Court of Wards under review.

In Court of Wards Letter No. 6 dated 23

1865 Department.

No.
PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 20th September 1865.

No. 6,131.

Sanctioning the appointment of Tirgunada Iyengar as Manager of the Bodinaickanoor Estate; and observing that instructions have been lately issued regarding the survey of that Estate.

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