M.R.O. 1—32,000—16-10-20.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2081 Press Rs.

399-600
Dated 21—12— N. 1870

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 399. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 5th October 1870, No. 5,994:—

Read again Board's Proceedings, No. 3,443, of the 20th May 1870.

Read also the following letter from the Officiating Collector of Nellore, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 20th August 1870, No. 2,140.

I HAVE the honour to submit the further information in regard to the affairs of the Chundi Zemindari, called for in the Board's Proceedings, dated 20th May last, No. 3,443.

2. This Zemindari was under Government management from Fasli 1237 to Fasli 1251; at first on account of the incapacity of the then Zemindar, and latterly during the minority of the individual who has lately demised, and to whom the estate was finally made over in 1843 under a Sanad a Milkeut Istimrar, on a peishcush of Rs. 18,000. It then became a permanently settled estate.

Extract Minutes Consultation, 4th July 1142, No. 820.

3. During the Government tenure of the estate, occurred the disastrous famine of Fasli 1242 (1832-33), which caused much distress and loss of life. Its effects were perceptible for years afterwards. It was in consideration of the deterioration thus brought about, that the peishcush which the Board of Revenue had first* proposed to be fixed at 20,000, was reduced† to its present amount. It was then estimated that the eventual yearly income of the estate, would rather exceed than fall short of Rs. 36,000. The result has proved that this estimate was a low one, the beriz being now given by those most interested at Rs. 41,248.

* Board's Procs., 14th Feb. 1839, No. 74.
† Board to Govt., 23rd Sept. 1839, No. 433.
Extract Minutes Consultation, 31st Oct. 1839, No. 1,346.

4. Notwithstanding the drawback above adverted to, a surplus of Rs. 47,554 was handed over with the estate to the late Zemindar, besides which, debts contracted by former Zemindars, amounting to some 70,000 Rs., were cleared off by a payment of Rs. 42,000 odd, and the great tank at Chundi repaired at a cost of Rs. 4,456. A sum of Rs. 20,241, balance outstanding between Faslies 1237 and 1245 was also written off on account of the unfavourable nature of the seasons.

Extract Minutes Consultation, 2nd April 1839, No. 441.

Extract Minutes Consultation, 20th January 1837, No. 91.

5. A full account of the Zemindari from the commencement of British rule will be found in Board's Proceedings, 14th February 1839, No. 74.

6. The average beriz of the estate from Faslis 1237 to 1243 was Rs. 34,740. Average collections during same period Rs. 30,077.

Board's Procs., 11th May 1835.

7. The following abstract exhibits the demand and collection of subsequent years:—

			Demand.	Collection.
			Rs.	Rs.
Board's Proceedings, 22nd December 1836.		1243	25,975	22,437
		1244	27,886	24,878
		1245	30,366	27,962
Do.	12th Nov. 1840, No. 435.	1246	29,415	21,178
		1247	32,953	28,182
		1248	31,659	30,907
Do.	30th Sep. 1841.	1249	32,823	31,485
Do.	13th June 1842, No. 250.	1250	30,940	29,208
		Total...	2,42,022	2,16,237
		Average...	30,253	27,030

8. Having given this slight sketch of the former management of the Zemindari, I now proceed to notice those points on which the Board require explanation.

9. Copy of the Officiating Sub-Collector's letter, No. 355, dated 12th July 1870, and of its three enclosures, marked 1, 2, and 3, respectively, are enclosed, for the Board's information.

10. The total revenue of the estate is given at Rs. 41,248 in a rough account furnished to the Officiating Sub-Collector by the Vakil of the late Zemindar's mother, as already reported to the Board. No original Accounts have been produced, and the attempts of the Sub-Collector to obtain correct information of the actual receipts or expenditure have been fruitless. As it is not likely that the Zemindar's people will show a larger income than is actually realized, we may safely assume that the receipts do not fall short of the amount above specified.

11. After deducting the expenditure, as given by the Vakil referred to, viz., Rs. 40,732, the annual saving was in my last Report entered at Rs. 516.

12. In No. 1 of the enclosures to the Sub-Collector's letter, the particulars of the office and domestic expenses, so far as could be gathered, are detailed, amounting as follows to Rs. 12,105 per annum. The information was given slowly and reluctantly after repeated questions, and is, the Board will observe, vague and unsatisfactory.

	Rs.
Establishment consisting of 200 persons, including Javabnavis, Mazumdars, Peshkars, Cash-keepers, Gumastas, Vakils, and Peons	3,216
Food for 18 horses and 300 cattle	2,400
Food for Establishment	2,000
Teacher for boys...	240
Domestic Establishment	4,249
Total ...	12,105

13. Mr. Hughesdon points out that a saving may be effected in some of these items. There are four Vakils, drawing in the aggregate Rs. 840 per annum, whose chief duty consists in hanging about the public offices. These officers may well be dispensed with. No details are given of the cost of the Domestic Establishment, which is put at Rs. 4,249. The cost of feeding horses and cattle can no doubt be considerably reduced, most of the country bred ponies and cattle are of no present

use, and should not be retained. The actual extent by which these expenses can be cut down must be determined after obtaining fuller information which is not available at present, and which can only be ascertained if the estate is taken under Government management. Admitting, however, for the present this item of expenditure at Rs. 12,105, Mr. Hughesdon shows in Enclosure No. 2 that a balance of Rs. 8,188 may still be expected.

14. In this second Statement, Mr. Hughesdon takes the items of expenditure as recorded in paragraphs 6 to 10 of his letter, recorded in the Board's Proceedings, under reply, exhibiting alongside the alterations by which he proposes to effect this saving.

		Rs.
The items left untouched for the present are—		
1.	Income-tax	185
2.	Annuities...	1,560
3.	Villages granted to the late Zemindar's brother and sister	1,090
4.	Allowance to a distant relative whom it is proposed to appoint guardian to the boys	120
5.	Office and domestic expenses as per Enclosure 1 ...	12,105
	Total...	15,060
The items to be altogether stopped or partially met from savings are—		
	Allowances for	
6.	Charity	720
7.	Illegitimate family of late Zemindar's father	240
8.	A renter	180
9.	Renters, Peddakapu and Curnums...	300
10.	Temples, religious festivals, etc.	2,382
11.	Subscriptions to schools	300
12.	Repairs to tanks and residence	2,500
13.	Remissions	1,050
	Total...	7,072
	Grand Total...	22,732

15. There will thus be a saving as per margin of Rs. 8,188, which will allow for the expense of a Manager and for such expenditure as may be deemed expedient for (6) charity, (10) religious purposes, (11) schools, (12) repairs to tanks, etc., and (13) remissions. Items 7, 8, and 9 may be struck out altogether. Mr. Hughesdon proposes Rs. 1,200 per annum, as a personal allowance to the grandmother and minors; but I do not see any particular reason for this charge. The sum already entered under the head of domestic Establishment seems amply sufficient.

	Rs.	Rs.
Estimated heriz		41,248
Deduct—	Rs.	
1. Peishcush	18,000	
2. Items 1 to 5 above	15,060	
		33,060
Balance...		8,188

16. The Sub-Collector has not taken into consideration the annual interest which should accrue from the cash in hand, which is confessedly of large amount.

17. Mr. Hughesdon points out that the average annual cost of *repairs* did not, when the estate was under Government management, exceed Rs. 400 per annum. I observe from the Board's Proceedings on the settlement of the estate for Faslis 1249 and 1250, that the repairs sanctioned for those two years were respectively Rs. 352 and Rs. 323 in amount. The sum claimed for *remissions* also does not appear to be on account of remissions properly so called, but for concessions to favoured castes and charity, and Service Inams newly granted.

30th September 1841.
13th June 1842.

	Rs.
1. ⅛ of 2,400, charge for horses and cattle.	1,800
2. Charge for Vakils	840
	*2,640

† Enclosure No. 1.

	Rs.
6. Charity	500
10. Religious festivals, etc.	1,500
11. Subscriptions, etc.	
12. Repairs	500
13. Remissions	500
	3,000

	Rs.
Peishcush	18,000
As per No. 1	12,420
Other items	3,000
	33,420
Bris	41,248
	‡7,828

18. I am of opinion that a deduction of Rs. 2,640* may be reasonably expected from the item of "office and domestic expenses,"† thus reducing that charge from Rs. 12,105 to Rs. 9,465, and estimating the possible expenses as per margin at Rs. 3,000, the total probable charges would amount to Rs. 33,420, leaving a net balance of Rs. 7,828‡ to meet the expenses of management estimated at Rs. 900 per annum, and any other charges which may be necessary. Under this view, there ought to be a considerable sum to credit at the termination of the Zemindar's minority.

19. I think the estate might bear the expense of a Manager on the salary originally proposed; but having in view the remarks of the Board in paragraph 6 of their Proceedings, and Mr. Hughesdon's alternative proposal, I do not think that such an expense need be incurred.

20. Referring to paragraph 5 of the Board's Proceedings, I have to mention that the cost of the establishment employed when the Zemindari was formerly under management, amounted as per Enclosure No. 3 to Rs. 275 per mensem or Rs. 3,300 per annum. It will be observed that the highest paid officer was an Aumi on Rs. 35. This establishment worked under the "Head of Police," then located at Chimid. The cost of the Office Establishment said to be entertained on the estate at the present moment is put down at Rs. 3,216 per annum (paragraph 12, *supra*).

21. I beg the Board's attention to the remarks contained in paragraph 10 of the Sub-Collector's enclosed letter. I took it for granted that the Statement of expenditure, prepared by the late Zemindar's Agents, was worthless as to affording any data. It was only natural that it should have been made up to show no profit. No other being forthcoming, it was submitted, and I regret, as much as Mr. Hughesdon does, that this was not more pointedly noticed.

22. In paragraphs 2 to 5 of his letter, the Sub-Collector explains the reasons which induced him to propose the appointment of a Manager on Rs. 150, and he

then puts forward two other propositions for the conduct of the business of the estate, if the appointment of a Manager is thought undesirable. I am of opinion that the best course is to nominate the Kandukur Tahsildar for the post, giving him a personal allowance of Rs. 25 as suggested, and one or two Assistants, as may be found convenient, at a cost not exceeding 50 Rs. per mensem, making the total monthly charge for management Rs. 75. I think this plan preferable to appointing the Sub-Collector manager. The estate is entirely within the limits of the Kandukur Taluq, and the work could be performed more satisfactorily by the Tahsildar than by any one else.

23. Mr. Hughesdon shows sufficiently, I think, in paragraph 6 of his letter that no other arrangement could be really so economical or better for the welfare of the estate.

24. The Board's inquiry as to the fact of the execution of a Will by the late Zemindar is answered in paragraph 17 of Mr. Hughesdon's letter. It may or may not have expressed his own wishes; but I really do not think it matters much which way it is looked at. Such documents are always forthcoming on these occasions. The only question to be considered is whether it is for the advantage of the future proprietor that the estate should or should not be nursed. Mr. Hughesdon points out that the provisions of Regulation V. of 1804 are against the appointment of the Minor's grandmother to be guardian and manager.

25. It only remains now to remark on Petition No. 1,373, presented by W. Scharlieb, Esq., on behalf of Rangammagaru, paternal grandmother of the Minor, which has been forwarded for careful consideration.

26. It is said in paragraph 6 that under Zemindari management, the collections have averaged Rs. 40,198 per annum, whereas under the Collector, for fifteen years, from Fasli 1237 to Fasli 1251, the average demand was Rs. 34,819. If it is the case that the resources of the Zemindari have so much improved since 1842, it is a matter of congratulation. The reason of the falling back in Fasli 1242 and subsequent years has been already mentioned. I may observe that the figures given in Appendix B. to this petition do not agree at all with those extracted from the records, and quoted in paragraph 7 of this letter. No comparison, therefore, can be instituted. It is further stated that "the Collector made over the estate to "the heir on his coming of age, saddled with a Government arrear of some 80,000 Rs." I need only refer the Board to paragraph 4 above. Of course petitioner's advocate would not have made this palpably false statement had he been aware of the real facts of the case. The same mistake, to use a mild term, pervades the supplementary petition of the 14th April last. Mr. Hughesdon has noticed these points at length in paragraphs 13 to 15 of his letter. In paragraphs 6 to 8 inclusive, he discusses other statements of the petitioner. It is obvious to remark on paragraphs 7 and 18 that any actual expenditure, as stated to have been incurred in Madras, or any future liability, such as petitioner proposes to take on herself, must form a charge upon the assets of the estate.

Paragraph 3, *supra*.

27. Attention is requested to the observations on the general policy of giving up the Zemindari to the family, recorded in paragraph 9 of the Sub-Collector's letter.

28. It only remains in conclusion to sum up the proposals made for the future management of the estate. These are—

(1.) That the Tahsildar of Kandukur be appointed Manager at a cost, including establishment, not exceeding Rs. 75 per mensem.

(2.) That an expenditure as per Enclosure No. 2 to the amount in the first instance of Rs. 15,960 per annum be sanctioned, leaving further charges to be submitted for separate consideration and orders.

	Rs.
Available	23,248
Deduct estimated savings	8,188
	15,060
Add cost of management	900
	15,960

(3.) That Rangammagaru, the grandmother, be appointed guardian to the female children, and the late Zemindar's cousin, Kondala Nayani Garu, guardian to the male minors.

29. Petition No. 1,373 and its enclosure are herewith returned.

Enclosure No. 1.

From J. C. HUGHESDON, Esq., Officiating Sub-Collector, to the Officiating Collector of Nellore, dated 11th July 1870, No. 355.

I have the honour, with reference to Board's Proceedings, No. 3,443, dated 20th May last, to submit a further report on the affairs of the Chundi Zemindari; and as directed, I shall also offer remarks on such points as seem to call for notice in the petitions presented to the Board by the Minor's grandmother.

2. And first, as the Board desire to have before them detailed proposals for the management of the estate by the Court of Wards, I shall explain the grounds of my original suggestions, as well as state full particulars of an alternative plan, which, with advertence to the Board's remarks, you will probably consider may more properly be adopted.

3. I have to state then that my opinion in the first instance was that a Manager might be put in on Rs. 70 or 80 per mensem. The Zemindari is about one-fourth the size of an ordinary Government Taluq, and in importance may be taken to rank with a Deputy-Tahsildar's charge. However, for the post of Manager I had only three applications, two of which did not seem to be worth any sort of consideration. The third was from B. Tepirwall Chetty, the person eventually nominated by me, knowing that he had already an assured position in the Collector's Office, and that it was owing to a mere accident that he did not some time ago receive a still higher post. I inquired of him what pay he would expect to receive with the new appointment, informing him at the same time that I did not think the Board would sanction more than Rs. 100 at the utmost. He replied that he would not wish for the post if the salary should be under Rs. 150. Hence, no other eligible applicant appearing, I was led to name that sum. It is somewhat curious that, while for appointments of every other kind, and of every grade, applications are always numerous, the management of this Zemindari has not been sought after. This I account for first, by the responsibility and trouble that would be incurred by any officer who should not be prepared to fall in entirely with the views of the late Zemindar's family, or of the parties under whose influence they may be acting; secondly, by the post being out of the regular line of promotion. It would of course be understood that any man taking it up would have to hold it till the expiration of the minority.

4. If the Board, however, are not prepared to sanction such a charge, (and I have already admitted it to be a very heavy one), I think (under the circumstances stated above) that the exclusive services of a Manager must be dispensed with, and that either the Sub-Collector or the Tahsildar must assume the duties of the office. The nomination of the Tahsildar I did not wholly lose sight of originally, but considering how fully occupied is the time of this class of officers, it is not generally expedient to saddle them with additional work. Besides, the plan does not seem to be quite fair to the general public. It increases the size of the Taluq by about a fifth; to that extent augments the Tahsildar's duties; and occasions would frequently arise when the performance of public work would necessarily be postponed to what are essentially private interests. Besides, Government in this manner assumes in the person of its servants a responsibility in the Civil Courts which on general grounds is not desirable, and would be avoided by the appointment of an independent Manager; the risk may not be a great one, but should not be passed by entirely without notice.

5. Should the appointment of a Government servant without prejudice to his other duties be finally approved, the Tahsildar is probably the best man for the work. His station is in the immediate neighbourhood, and he must have already become acquainted in some measure with the affairs of the Zemindari. I think that as by this addition to its beriz (gross revenue demand) the Kandukur Taluq would be placed in a higher grade than at present, the Tahsildar should receive a personal allowance of Rs. 25 per mensem from the estate. To keep the Zemindari Accounts, attend to the correspondence, etc., I would suggest the appointment of an officer as Manager's Assistant on Rs. 50 per mensem; or of a 1st and 2nd Clerk, if found to be a more suitable arrangement, on Rs. 35 and 15 each. If the Sub-Collector were appointed Manager, I would propose an Assistant on Rs. 50 and a Clerk on Rs. 20. Thus under the Tahsildar, the maximum cost of management would be Rs. 75, and under the Sub-Collector Rs. 70. I do not think that at first at all events an efficient establishment could be got for less: in the course of a few months when the Accounts had been thoroughly examined and brought into order, a saving might be effected, and this possibility I would keep in view. Though little desire seems to exist for the management of the estate, no doubt suitable men would readily take the inferior appointments, as they would thus be in the regular service of Government, and would not in any way injure their future prospects.

6. The Zemindari's establishment of Mazumdars, etc., it would probably be necessary to retain, or to reduce but* slightly. Thus the increased expense of management on account of the minority would amount to a maximum of Rs. 75.† Under private arrangements could the mother of the late Zemindar get the work done for less? The lady is represented as repudiating the idea of employing the members of the family to whom I had stated objections. She is prepared to nominate, she says, "a wealthy and influential inhabitant of the place, a friend of the family, and one deeply interested in its welfare, to be associated with her in carrying on the affairs of the Zemindari". In her second petition, she again alludes to the same person. It is to be observed that the party is not named ‡. I have no doubt that the person referred to is either Battini Venkaya Naidu, the Vakil, who has been in communication with me already about the Zemindari affairs, or his brother-in-law Attota Perumal Naidu. These men have for some time past, I believe, occupied the position of renters, under money-lenders to, and general agents of, the Zemindar. That they are wealthy and influential, perfectly familiar with all the business of the estate, and competent to manage it with a due regard to their own interests, may be admitted. Whether such interests can be taken to be identical with those of the Zemindari is a matter for consideration. Besides, these men have their own occupations and pursuits to attend to, and it is not reasonable to suppose that they will devote their time to the service of the Zemindari without remuneration. They may not, indeed, receive so high a salary in money as a Government Agent would require, but I take it to be certain that whether by the lease of villages or by the grant of other privileges, the actual cost to the estate would be as great or greater than under any other system of management. Were the Board disposed to make a concession to the wishes of the Minor's grandmother, as they are set forth by her agents, I should think it would be by far the better course to give to Battini Venkaya Naidu the direct appointment of manager, and thus by recognizing his position, make him responsible to

* See Enclosure No. 1.

† Less certain probable savings. See (A) and (C) Enclosure No. 1.

‡ But see also concluding portion of paragraph 3 of the second petition.

the family on the one hand, and to the Court of Wards on the other, rather than suffer him to assume a situation, in which acting in the name of the lady, and by her authority he would be tempted to pursue, and would have every facility for pursuing his own immediate interests.

7. And here the grandmother's petition to the Board calls for some notice. The lady is prepared, it is stated, to lodge security for the proper management of the estate. But the only available security must, it is clear, already form a portion of the assets of the estate. In any other view of the case the *bonâ fides* of the offer is open to doubt, and the possible deposit depends upon the willingness of interested parties to make a profitable arrangement with the family.

8. As to the suggestion made in the lady's behalf that she never entertained an intention of employing the male relatives of whom I formerly spoke, it seems sufficient to observe that these two men were put forward as the responsible heads of the family, and I saw them professedly in that capacity. Of the kindly aid to be afforded by a confidential friend, no hint was then or ever given. The vakeel throughout the negotiations affected to be nothing more than an Agent acting under instructions.

9. As to the general policy of giving up the Zemindari to the family, it is necessary to say a few words. As I have before intimated, the late Zemindar appears always to have stood well with the Revenue-officers of the district; all Government demands were regularly met; tenants were treated with consideration, the resources of the estate were carefully nursed. I have, however, on various occasions had opportunities of learning that the successive Police Superintendents of the district always viewed the deceased with distrust. The caste* to which the family belongs, furnishes a considerable proportion of the criminal population of this part of the country, and although nothing was ever actually brought home to the late Zemindar, the District Police Officers had on several occasions reason to believe that he was the instigator of, and sharer in the proceeds of robberies and dacoities. The present Superintendent (Major Galbraith) is, I find, most anxious that the opportunity be taken of breaking up for a time at all events the family influence, and the Assistant Superintendent (Mr. Powell,) who has been but seven or eight months in the district, tells me that he has already found the working of the Police in the Zemindari to be bad, and that he would look for a great improvement under Government agency.

* Boya.

10. I now proceed to another point as to which the Board require fuller information, viz., the saving that may be looked for from the estate. And here I beg to be permitted to say (and I regret that I did not make this point clear in the first instance) that I placed very little confidence in the written statement given to me by the Vakil, notwithstanding that I had repeatedly expressed my wish for the very fullest information as to the state of affairs; all that I succeeded in getting from Venkaya Naidu was the bare estimate of receipts and expenditure which I submitted to you. No vouchers, no original accounts were produced; and as to personal property, (cash, jewels, etc.) my attempts to obtain any authenticated information were perfectly futile; I was, and still am of opinion that I had no power to enforce the production of accounts or papers by way of verification, and hence, it seemed to me, that any detailed criticism would be best omitted till the appointment of a Manager should have invested a competent person with authority to make a thorough examination of affairs. And in this view, I was careful not to guarantee the correctness of the information I furnished. Thus I spoke of payments *said* to have been made; "and of the account of expenditure as *rendered* to me," and so forth. I much regret that I was not more explicit. I looked upon the statement simply as one put forward to account for expenditure *somehow*, and the remoteness of which prove the truth was probably considerable. As an instance of the very unsatisfactory way of conveying information which was adopted by the Zemindari party and of the little value of the details given, I would state that on my first inquiring of the Vakil, whether any amount of ready money was in the hands of the family, he replied in the negative. On my thereupon observing that in that case he would doubtless be able to tell me what and because of the considerable sum that had been paid down by Government with the estate, he informed me that a balance of Rupees 40,000 still remained. Similarly in the first instance, the two members of the family denied any knowledge of the matter; subsequently they vaguely estimated the existing balance at

"20 or 30,000 Rupees." But for the accidental circumstance, that I had some knowledge of the previous history of the estate, I should probably have reported to the Board, that no sum worth mentioning had been found in the Zemindari Treasury.

11. But even on the assumption that the account was perfectly accurate, I deemed it to be obvious that very large savings would be possible, and this is apparently the view that was taken both by yourself and by the Board. As to the particular charges specified, it seemed to me to be quite clear that some of them were alienations from the *corpus* of the estate which would necessarily cease* with the Zemindar's death, and as to others that they consisted of an expenditure which, however, commendable or legitimate when incurred by the proprietor, could not be sanctioned by trustees. It seemed to me that making allowance for every claim either legally or morally binding; and for every item of expenditure whether necessary for the support of the family in due dignity or for the up-keep of the Zemindari, a large margin might be looked for. In fact, I thought it to be beyond a doubt that after meeting the payment of Rupees 1,800 a-year to a manager, there would still be a balance annually of some Rupees 3,000 or 4,000, and this would go to form a fund for the occasional ceremonial expenses of the family, marriages of the minors, and so forth. I further submit that, without entering fully into details, I was justified in forming the opinion with regard to an estate which was represented as being not only free from debt, but as having a considerable accumulation of cash; that a larger annual saving than that mentioned (Rupees 500) would be perfectly practicable during a minority, when regard still being had to the position and honour of the family, the absence of an acknowledged head would naturally in many ways diminish the occasions of expenditure.

* See restrictions placed on transfers by Section 8, Regulation XXV. of 1802; see also *passim*, the Chundi records in the Collector's Office; also certain conditions of the Cabooleat executed by deceased on receiving the estate; also Board's Circular Order V. of 1869, (194-L.)

12. For the particular items which I think capable of reduction, I beg to refer you to Enclosure No. 2.

13. As to the results of the former management by Government officers, the statements made by the petitioner to the Board, call for observation. The estate was taken under Government control in the year 1827, on account of the indebtedness of the Zemindar, and when it was finally made over in 1842 to the lately deceased proprietor, not only had incumbrances to the extent of Rupees 50,000† been paid off, but a surplus of Rupees 48,000 had accumulated, and that amount also the late Zemindar‡ received. As to the uncollected balance (Rupees 1,00,251-11-0) referred to by petitioner, I have endeavoured to ascertain what may be the meaning of the term used, and how the figures may have been arrived at. The only solution I can offer is as follows:—

† The claims amounted to Rupees 75,000, but on examination were reduced by the then Sub-Collector to the sum mentioned.

‡ See Extract Proceedings Court of Wards, dated 13th June 1842.

1st, the amount of the demand is put down at the gross beriz (gross estimated revenue of the Fasli (revenue year) without the deduction of remissions granted on account of wet waste land and withered crops; remissions which truly enough would not have been given by the proprietor, but to which exception cannot be taken, unless the whole revenue system of the State is to be impeached;

2nd, the amount due at the end of each year seems to have been put down as an uncollected balance, and no credit given for subsequent collections on the same account; thus the petitioner represents that for Fasli 1250 there was an "uncollected balance" of Rupees 7,686-4-7. The Government accounts show that at the end of the same Fasli there were arrears of only Rupees 1,958-14-9 which, by the 15th April, had been reduced to Rupees 1,731-6-4, and which were subsequently no doubt still further diminished. The demand for the same Fasli, as stated by the petitioner, was Rupees 36,492-0-1. The demand (Settlement made at the Jamabandi) was, according to the Collector's accounts, Rupees 30,940-6-5, remissions (the season is reported to have been a particularly unfavourable one) having been granted to the amount of Rs. 6,192-7-2, Fasli 1250 immediately preceded that in which the estate was given up; equally wide discrepancies have been found in the accounts of other Fasliés.

14. As to the increased rental derived by the late Zemindar, it arose chiefly, as I indicated above, from the refusal of remissions, but in some degree no doubt from the improvement of the Estate. And here, I have to observe, that an improvement in the resources of the estate was distinctly foreseen by the Government officers in charge of it, and is, I believe, principally due to the enlargement of the Chundi tank. This work was suggested and estimated for by those officers. Whether or not it was at that time carried out, I have not been able to discover; but at all events the Zemindar at the very moment of receiving the property was furnished with ample means for developing its resources to the fullest extent.

15. But it is unnecessary to discuss these details. The general ground may be taken that up to the moment of its surrender to the late incumbent, he had no claim whatever upon the Zemindari or upon its revenues. His investiture was purely an act of Sovereign grace. While the estate was under Government control, litigation arose in the family, and the High Court then decided that the Zemindari was in the position of "an unsettled estate," and that the course of succession was at the discretion of the Government. As to the successful advocacy of her son's claims on this occasion, upon which point the petitioner is made to dwell very strongly, I have to remark that it appears from the recorded Proceedings on the subject that the question was settled by the Government upon purely *a priori* principles, and upon the ground of abstract right. The petitioner's son occupied a certain position with regard to the former holders of the Zemindari, and without reference to the merits or qualifications either of himself or of the members of his branch of the family, the Government were pleased to determine to make over the estate to him.* Accordingly, on his attaining his majority, a Sunnud in the usual form was given, and the peishkush (quit rent) was permanently fixed. Taking the estate as they thus did under a new grant with what happened, antecedently thereto, neither the petitioner nor the Zemindar have or ever had any sort of concern.

*The Board supported the claims of his rival, see Proceedings of Board, dated 14th February 1860, and Extract Minutes of Consultation, Madras Government, dated 2nd April 1860.

16. As to the establishment entertaining during the former management, the Board require information. I desire to refer you to Enclosure No. 3. The "Head of Police" had Revenue and Magisterial charge, and hence the payment of a Manager had not to be met. Instead of an Amin on Rupees 35, I have proposed the appointment of a Manager's Assistant on Rupees 50. The generally increased allowances now made to Government servants, too, may perhaps be held to justify the increase: and on the same ground my proposal to make a personal allowance to the Tahsildar may be deemed tenable. The rest of the establishment would not, I think, be materially altered, but as I have pointed out, I have no means at present of estimating for the office and domestic establishments separately, and have to ask for the grant of a lump sum fixed with reference to the information furnished by the family. Detailed accounts would have to be prepared after a short experience of actual working.

17. The Board inquire whether there is any doubt as to the fact of the late Zemindar having executed the will that was formerly adverted to. I believe that no doubt exists. In speaking of the *alleged* wishes of the deceased," I was merely referring to the consideration that was present to my mind, how far a document which purported to have been executed by the deceased on the very day of his death could be taken to represent his real intentions rather than the desires of the persons by whom he was surrounded.

18. It is seldom necessary to trouble the Board with the details of local gossip. Yet I deem it proper to state here that information has reached me from two or three independent sources, and altogether there is such a concurrence of testimony on the point, that I may almost venture to assert as a fact, that Venkaya Naidu received from the estate the sum of Rupees 3,000 to be expended on the advocacy in Madras of the particular line adopted. On his recent return he received no further payment, but was told that the family would await the result of his negotiations.

19. My proposals then are—

(1.) That the Manager previously named by me be appointed on a salary of Rupees 150. As he would reside on the spot, and his time would be devoted exclusively to the Zemindari affairs, a further special establishment would not be required. The details of the work, with correspondence, accounts, etc., he would be able to get through without aid, or with such aid as could be furnished by the regular servants of the Zemindari.

Or that the Sub-Collector or the Tahsildar be appointed manager with an establishment at a cost not exceeding Rupees 75 monthly.

(2.) That an expenditure from the assests of the estate be sanctioned, as per Enclosure No. 2 to the account of Rupees 17,160† per annum.

23,248 less 6,088.

The savings are estimated at Rupees 6,088; they consist of items of expenditure, which, it is believed, will, for the most part, prove on examination to be such as cannot be passed by the Court of Wards; and which in any case would have to be met from surplus revenue, and be separately submitted for the special sanction of the Court.

(3.) That the grandmother be appointed guardian to the female children, and the late Zemindar's cousin, Kondalo Nayani Garu, to the male minors, as previously suggested by me. The lady's claim to both management and guardianship is barred by Section 9, Regulation V. of 1804; and Clauses 4 and 5, Section 19, being read together, seem to exclude her from the guardianship of the boys; as to which point see also Clause 9, Section 21.

20. Referring you for further information to the various enclosures, I have, etc.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 2 to 4.—Statements.

ENCLOSURE No. 5.—Petition.

THIS letter will be submitted to Government, together with a copy of the Proceedings quoted above.

2. It is evident that no more trustworthy information as to the affairs of the estate is likely to be obtained, unless the estate is put in charge of the Collector; and it is necessary to decide at once as to the propriety of its being placed under the Court of Wards, as recommended by the district officials, or left in charge of the late Zemindar's mother as appears to have been the wish of the Zemindar.

3. As to this the Board are of opinion that Mr. Hughesdon's present letter is conclusive, and that there could not well be a case where the protection of the Court was more urgently required to save an important estate from being dissipated amongst a crowd of unprincipled hangers-on and to ensure a fitting education to its future landlord.

4. Should the Government decide to put the estate under their charge, the Court of Wards will then proceed to pass orders on the Collector's proposals for its management.

No. 400. ORDER THEREON, 21st December 1870, No. 2,081.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government resolve to authorize the Court of Wards to assume charge of the Chundi estate as being the course most consistent with the interests of the minor Zemindar.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st December 1870.

2. The Government desire that the arrangements made for the maintenance of the Zemindar's family shall be of as liberal a character as the income from the estate will allow.

3. The minor Zemindar is now twelve years old, and the Government specially desire that very careful attention be bestowed on his education. He should be sent to Nellore, where the Collector will be able to watch his progress and report on it.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Court of Wards.
,, the Accountant-General.

Fxd. F. R. Bantleman.

2nd January 1837 Rs — 7 —
3 " 1839 — " — 11 — 12
3 " — — — — 1 — 2
22 December 1840 — 52/5
30 October 1841 — 12/5
4th July 1842 — 23/4
1 February 1870 — 12

1870.

Board of Revenue.

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 5TH OCTOBER 1870, No 5,994.

Rec'd 15 Oct 70 in
Encl. 5
Received 17th — 4 Octo

S. Cons. 2081. 21 Dec 70

OCTOBER.
No. 5,994.

Chundi Zemindary—in Nellore District,—Letter from Collector furnishing further information called for by Board, in regard to affairs of, submitted to Government, with opinion that estate should be taken under management of Court of Wards.

399
Cy Corrs Mg. Dec 69 + Dec 70

Revenue Department.

Memo. for Orders on A. 3182.

Questions— (1) Whether the Chundi Zemindary is to be taken under management by the Court of Wards.

(2) If so, what arrangements are to be made for its administration.

The Zemindar of Chundi died in January 1842.

The Chundi Estate is permanently settled and pays a peishcush of Rs. 18,000. It was endowed with a perpetual re-

3. The total benefit of the estate is stated by the Zemindar's family at Rupees 41,248- The expenditure is said on the same authority to embrace all but Rs. 576 of this sum: but this authority is said to be worthless, and the Collector thinks that the expenditure may be reduced so as to pay the family the expenses of management and leave an annual surplus of nearly Rs. 7,000- There is now a balance in hand of Rs. 30,000 at least.

4. It is evident that the family are strongly opposed to the intervention of the Court of Wards. Their case is stated in Mr. Scharlieb's two petitions to the Board, but according to the Collector he is incorrect in stating that a debt of Rs. 30,000 accrued during the management of the estate by Govt. which was afterwards remitted on the petition of the estate and placed under the Court of Wards.

I will now inform the Court that pending the arrangement to be of a liberal character. The estate is considerable value and I will sacrifice the comfort of the family to the future benefit of saving. The Education of the heirs must also be taken to. L. D. S

afterwards paid off by the Zemindar.

5. Still it must be owned that, by all appearances, the prosperity of the Zemindary increased during the life time of the late Zemindar: although the District officers attribute this prosperity to the measures instituted during the tenure of the estate by Govt.—such as the repair of the Chandi tank

6. The satisfaction which the Zemindar afforded to the Revenue officers by punctual payment

I think it is time that this estate might be taken under the management of Govt. during the minority of the Zemindar.

Under the circumstances I think it will be well that the Estate should be taken under management so that the next Zemindar may receive the estate free from encumbrance which he could not be likely to effect under the system introduced by Govt. should, moreover, expire a limited time enable the education of the young Zemindar. I would therefore that he should be sent to some school under the eye of the Collector. He is now 12 years old or one

payment of Peishcush did not extend to the Police officers. The latter, that he was the "instigator of, & "sharer of the proceeds "of robberies and dacoities." They are anxious therefore that this opportunity should be taken for breaking up the family influence.

7. By his will, the Zemindar left his mother manager of the Zemindary, and guardian of his minor son and heir. This document, can of course be set aside under

under Regulation V
of 1804.

8. It is submitted that the Court of Wards may be authorised to take the estate under their management.

9. The decision of the second question can then be left to the Court. They might be requested to state how they purpose laying out the surplus now at the credit of the estate.

Otto

Otto

Nellore.

Proceedings of Govt. & Chief Secretary on Nellore Affairs

Case

No. 2081

Proc. of the Madras Govt.

Under date the 21st December 1876.

Read the following

Proc. of the Bd. of Revenue

Stating: Collector letter furnishing further information regarding affairs of Chennada Zemindary, in Nellore Dt.

M. E. 5 Oct. 1876 No. 5994

The Govt. resolve to authorize the Court of Wards to assume charge of the Chenada estate, in the event considered with the interests of the Zemindary: & to retain them

~~no near relation of the~~

~~late Zemindar who are~~

~~competent to conduct the~~

~~management.~~

2. The Govt. desire that

the arrangements made for

the maintenance of the

Zemindar's family shall

be of as liberal a character:

~~income from~~

as the ~~large interest~~

~~the welfare of the estate~~

~~is at stake.~~

~~Should any cause for~~

~~displeasure the comforts~~

~~with a view to economy~~

3. The minor Zemindar

is now twelve years old and

~~shortly to~~

the Govt. ~~intend to pass~~

that

that ~~young~~ attention

that ~~young~~ ~~could~~ be

bestowed on his education.

He should be sent to

Nellore, where the Collector

will be able to watch

his progress and report

on it.

W.T.

J.H.

In S. Off. Letter dated 20th May 1818 - Encls. [illegible]

to ~~Board~~ Secy. Govt.

Bezugsmarke
Stadt Bönningen
Nr. Nebenbezirk