

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
28th June 1871.*

No. 308. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 9th June 1871, No. 2,332 :—

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of North Arcot, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 8th May 1871, No. 262.

I HAVE the honour to submit the report called for in paragraph 13 of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 14th ultimo, No. 1,548.

2. Kunja Goudu was undoubtedly a celebrated robber, and was well known as such. He was intimately connected with the operations of the gang of dacoits that in days gone by infested the Naikaneri and Thalupu ghauts on the western borders of this district, on the high road from Gudiattum to Byreddipalli, and Salem. As an instance of this, I forward translations of two letters (A. and B.), found among the papers belonging to Kunja Goudu, which clearly prove that Kunja Goudu knew all about the gang. These letters were written by the Police Ameen of Venkata-ghirrikota, applying for the assistance of Kunja Goudu in discovering certain robberies on the ghauts. There is also an Arzee, No. 31 of 1857 (B.), from the Palmanair Tahsildar, stating that Kunja Goudu and others had been ordered to prevent and detect crime which was then very rife in this district during the year 1857. This apparently was on the principle of setting a thief to catch a thief. This man was once arrested on a charge of dacoity committed in the puttah tope near Satgur about the year 1858. The result of the trial, however, is not known. I have written for the information, and will communicate it to the Board as soon as it is received.—Besides this, I have heard Kunja Goudu was actually committed to the Session Court more than once for trial on charges of robbery and dacoity. The Court is now closed, and I am therefore unable to get information on this point from the records, but the fact is well known in the district. Kunja Goudu was an object of terror in the neighbourhood of his village, and the ryots were in consequence obliged to pay him black-mail. There is, however, no documentary evidence in support of this; it is simply what I have heard from many persons during my stay in the Palmanair Talook last year. During the latter part of his life he was very powerful, as he possessed the friendship of several important officials in the district contracted either by presents or bribery. I specify below the names of the officials (Alagasingari Naidu excepted) who were so influenced by him, with a short account of the nature of their connection with him.

3. They are, first, Hari Row, late Talook Sheristadar of Palmanair, and then transferred to Gudiattum.

While at Palmanair this individual borrowed on two occasions Rupees 50 and 200 respectively from Kunja Goudu, and executed documents (D. and E.) on stamped paper to that effect. One of the documents (E.) is in his own hand-writing, and is attested with the signature of a Talook Peon who was one of the witnesses to the transaction. Document F. is a private letter from Hari Row to Kunja Goudu, requesting that a good she-buffalo may be procured for him.

4. G. is a letter from Hari Row addressed to one Yelligari Muniappa of Tirtham who was interested in the construction of the private tank referred to in my letter recorded in the Proceedings under acknowledgment, and who was a great friend of Kunja Goudu. In this letter Hari Row strongly recommends that Muniappa might assist in the celebration of the marriage of an "Acharry" of the Tirtham

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village that he had undertaken to perform. In the same letter was sent copy of a private letter addressed by Muniappa to Hari Row, requesting orders for the cultivation of some Reddi Inam land.

Hari Row's conduct in other official matters has been repeatedly brought to my unfavourable notice, and I was compelled in consequence to reduce him to a 1st-class Revenue Inspector's post.

5. The second person who was thus intimate with Kunja Goudu is Sundara Moodelly, Head Clerk in the general charge Deputy-Collector's Office. In an account book kept by Kunja Goudu, from which an extract (II.) was taken, there appears amongst others the following entry:—

Amount expended at Chittoor on the occasion of the registry of Maniendram village on the 8th Sudha Bhadripada.

	RS.	A.	P.
Paid to Sundara Moodelly	50	0	0
Do. to Second Gumastah and Duffadar	15	0	0
Total...	65	0	0

6. In the same account book it appears that in the year Atchya Rs. 20 was paid to the Palmanair Tahsildar, Syed Esak, who is now pensioned, and Rs. 10 to Gumastah Venkataramaniah. This latter individual is at present a Gumastah in the Chendraghiri Talook. He appears to have subsequently borrowed Rs. 200 from Kunja Goudu and executed a bond (I.) for that purpose. Of that sum Rs. 100 was repaid on the 30th December 1866.

7. Narasinga Row, the 2nd-class Revenue Inspector of Palmanair Talook, borrowed Rs. 30 from Kunja Goudu, and executed a bond (J.), dated 19th November 1868, in which he promised to repay the money from the pay due to him from April to June, and to take back the bond. The fact of the document having remained in Kunja Goudu's possession without any receipt of money being endorsed upon it shows that the money borrowed thereon was never repaid.

8. Annavaiah, the 3rd-class Revenue Inspector of Palmanair, borrowed Rs. 50 from Kunja Goudu in 1869, and executed a bond (K.), agreeing to repay the money in five instalments of 10 Rs. each, commencing from August 1869. This does not appear to have been fulfilled; but by letter (L.), dated 24th May 1870, it appears that Rs. 25 was paid on demand, and the balance promised to be paid back in two or three months.

9. The Collector's Duffadar, Sheik Ismail, has written no less than eight letters (M to T.) on various matters to Kunja Goudu. I invite the Board's attention to letter marked M. The tone of this letter is certainly very peculiar, and shows what influence the Duffadar had with the district officials, and his other letters show that he did not even scruple, when soliciting presents, to make use of the Collector's name.

10. Mahomed Hussain, the Head Peon in the Head Assistant Collector's Office, has written three letters, entreating Kunja Goudu to assist him. In one of these letters he says that he has strongly recommended Kunja Goudu to the favour of the Head Assistant Collector.

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11. In conclusion, I beg to enclose translation of eight letters (X. to Ae.) written by Alagasingari Naidu to Kunja Goudu, which will show in the clearest manner the intimacy that existed between them.

12. Letter marked Af. was written by Kunja Goudu to two of his friends who were directed to go with money to deliver it to the "Rajasri" in Palmanair and to get a bond executed for it from him.

The word "Rajasri" was evidently used to conceal the name of the person to whom the cash was to be delivered, and certainly means some important personage; and as there is none such in Palmanair, it must refer to either the Tahsildar or the Talook Sheristadar. The tenor of the whole letter is certainly in favour of this construction. It is unfortunately undated and so it is now difficult to trace out the real "Rajasri."

13. Aj. is a letter written by Sheik Hajee, a Peon in the Palmanair Talook, to Yelligari Muniappa on the 25th October 1866. I send this to show the Board the way business was then carried on in the Talook Cutcherry. The writer of the letter, a common Peon, had had the audacity to cause copies of certain official accounts in the talook records to be privately prepared for the use of a party who had sent to him for them.

14. It is extremely probable that the same sort of thing goes on far more extensively than is suspected, and to it may possibly be ascribed the difficulty that is often experienced in finding old records which are reported to be not forthcoming.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Translation of letters and Arzees.

THE Board find nothing in these letters which requires their interference.

No. 309. ORDER THEREON, 28th June 1871, No. 1,119.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED, pending the Board's report on Deputy-Collector Alagasingari Naidu's explanation, called for in paragraph 14, Board's Proceedings, 14th April last, No. 1,548. The last letter, however, should be at once inquired into.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

706.3823/1

26 April 1871 No. 292/93

Revenue Dept.
H^o 1955
1871.

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 9TH JUNE 1871, No. 2,332.

Dep^d 17 June 71

Encl. 1+

Received.

19

+ return 17/7/71

JUNE.

No. 2,332.

Kunja Gondu—of North Arcot District, who is believed to have been intimately connected with operations of gang of dacoits that formerly infested this District, and with whom Alagasingary Naidu, now Deputy Collector in Tanjore District, is said to have been on terms of singular intimacy when Tahsildar of Palmanair,—Collector informed that Board find nothing in letters submitted by him regarding, which requires their interference.

Recorded, pending in P.O.

upon order of Mr. Alagasingary

Naidu's explanation, called for

in Para 14 P.O. No. 14, 5 April last

No. 15, 18. The last order

was issued on 14th April 1871

28 June 71

To the Deputy Collector

No. 308-309

I have the writing
of him up the letters
16th night 1871. See
222 from the last one