

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st August 1871.*

Read the following papers:—

No. 202. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 27th July 1871,
No. 3,140.

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of the Kistna District, to the
Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Bapatla Talook, 5th
July 1871, Extra No. 12.

WHEN Government acquitted E. Simhadri Puntooloo, late Head Sheristadar of
Cuddapah District, they directed his restoration to the same grade in the public
service, but requested the Board of Revenue to arrange for his appointment to
some other district. As the first vacancy that occurred was in the Kistna District,
to this district Simhadri Puntooloo was accordingly sent. He joined in December
last. I was most anxious to give him a fair trial; I gave him time to get into the
way of the district; I took care that at first he should not be over-burdened with
work; I made every allowance for his difficulties; but I am sorry to say that after
six months' experience I find that this officer is totally unfit for the important
post he holds; and I earnestly request the Board to be relieved of his services, and
to be allowed to nominate another Sheristadar in his place.

2. Mr. G. VansAgnew has entered so fully into the subject of Simhadri
Puntooloo's disqualifications that it is unnecessary for me to enlarge upon them.
He has not had a good education; his natural abilities are most limited; he has not
made use of his opportunities to gain any useful experience; he is utterly wanting
in habits of application. Since he joined the whole work of the Office would have
been completely at a stand-still had not my Treasury Deputy-Collector Kandi
Rama Rao Puntooloo Garu been good enough to take the greater part of his work
in addition to his own duties and regularly bring up much of the Sheristadar's work
to me daily. What I did specially refer to Simhadri Puntooloo simply went into
his dufter and never came out again. He was certainly of late seriously ill with
guinea-worm in both his feet, and I have given him three months' privilege leave.

3. The Kistna is a large and important district, and there are intricate
questions liable to crop up from time to time in regard to irrigation, etc. With
an able, efficient, and hard-working Sheristadar, the Collector will always find his
hands full; but with such a man as Simhadri Puntooloo, the work must either be
shifted upon others, or there will be a dead lock. I should prefer having an intel-
ligent Clerk on Rs. 40 a-month of my own selection to being saddled with such a
substantial shadow of a Huzoor Sheristadar on Rs. 250. A Sheristadar ought to
be a man of information and experience, with some opinions of his own—a man
whom the Collector may with advantage consult; this ideal is, I am glad to say,
the rule, and the present case quite the exception. Six months of the exception
is, I submit, quite enough for any district.

THIS letter will be submitted for the orders of Government, and they will be
requested to consider it in connection with paragraphs 51 and 52 of the Board's
Proceedings disposed of in Government Order, 12th September 1870, No. 1,438.

2. Mr. Boswell's account of Simhadri Puntooloo confirms what was said of
him by Mr. VansAgnew, and the Board retain their opinion that he is unfit to be a

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Sheristadar, and that the highest employment that ought to be given to him is that of Tahsildar "in some talook where he will be under the eye of the Collector or a divisional officer."

3. The Board sympathize with Mr. Boswell and the people of his district, but the Kistna was the first Telugu district in which a Sheristadar's appointment fell vacant after the 12th September 1870, and there is no reason to hope that Simhadri Puntooloo would be less inefficient anywhere else.

No. 203. From E. SIMHADRY PUNTOOLOO, Huzoor Sheristadar of Kistna District, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Madras, dated Madras, 9th August 1871.

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH.—That your Petitioner has been given to understand that Mr. Boswell, Collector of Kistna, has addressed to the Board of Revenue, commenting very strongly upon your Petitioner's competency to hold the post of Huzoor Sheristadar, and that the subject has been brought before Government for disposal. If such is the case, or should anything result from such comments to the detriment of Petitioner's status hereafter, your Petitioner most humbly begs that your honour will be pleased to lay the following circumstances before the Right Honourable the Governor in Council for his Lordship's favourable consideration.

2. Your Petitioner has been serving Government in the Revenue Department for the last 23 years; during which period he has held the post of Huzoor Sheristadar for 12 years, and discharged with zeal and assiduity the onerous duties entrusted to him by his official superiors, as will be seen from the enclosed testimonials handed to him by Messrs. Murray, Wedderburn, Fraser, Smith, Cockerell, and Molony.

3. Such being the case, your Petitioner is at a loss to understand how Mr. Boswell, his present superior, could have discovered so late in the day cause for an unfavourable opinion of Petitioner's competency to hold the post of Huzoor Sheristadar; especially as his (Mr. Boswell's) experience of Petitioner's services was most brief, and he had not a fair opportunity of ascertaining Petitioner's real worth.

4. From the perusal of the following it will be obvious that Mr. Boswell did not experience personal knowledge of Petitioner's services for a longer period than 3½ months:—

1st.—Your Petitioner has only been 5½ months as Huzoor Sheristadar of Kistna; he took charge of the appointment on the 9th December 1870, and availed himself of privilege leave on the 23rd May 1871.

Secondly.—During this period of 5½ months, Petitioner was sick, almost bed-ridden for nearly one month as Mr. Boswell is well aware.

And Thirdly.—His services were placed at the disposal of Messrs. Graham and Cumming, Head Assistant and Assistant Collectors of Kistna, during the Jamabundi of two talooks for a period of 23 days.

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5. There then remained only 3½ months during which your petitioner had to do duty under Mr. Boswell; and this very short period was, your Petitioner submits with due respect, not sufficient either for him to obtain that local experience of the district to which he was newly appointed; or for the Collector to form any accurate opinion of Petitioner's real worth. Notwithstanding all these disadvantages under which he laboured, Petitioner felt quite confident, when he left Masulipatam on leave, that Mr. Boswell was pleased with his services, or at least that he was not in any way dissatisfied with him; for this gentleman always spoke to your Petitioner well, and was further pleased on one occasion to tell him that the Head Assistant Collector, Mr. Graham, had expressed entire satisfaction with the manner in which he performed his duties during the time that Petitioner's services were temporarily placed at that gentleman's disposal.

6. Indeed, the report made by Mr. Boswell to the Board was the very first occasion on which that gentleman ever expressed dissatisfaction at Petitioner's services, either directly or indirectly. His unfavourable report, moreover, your Petitioner humbly submits, was made by the said gentleman, some time after your Petitioner left Masulipatam on leave for the benefit of his health.

7. Under these circumstances it will be hard for Petitioner to be at once set down as an incompetent public servant, and to be dealt with accordingly, at a time, too, when the uninterrupted duration of his services has amounted to 23 years, only requiring two years to entitle Petitioner to reap the benefit of his long and faithful services, by obtaining the maximum amount of pension, awardable under the rules.

8. And Petitioner respectfully adds here that your Petitioner's age is only 45 years; and his physical and mental capacities remain quite unimpaired; and had it not been for the unfortunate event which recently dragged him before the authorities in an unenviable light, your Petitioner would have submitted to Government his application for promotion to a higher post, as he feels that he has earned a claim to such by a long and faithful discharge of his duties, as testified by his immediate superiors (testimonials enclosed), since he was recommended by the late Messrs. Smith and others for a Deputy-Collector's post.

9. Your honour will thus see that any step which would tend to degrade or reduce your Petitioner's position would tell very hardly upon him; and if the Government should consider that Petitioner cannot be retained in Kistna, as the Collector of that district is not well pleased with his services, your Petitioner humbly prays that he may be transferred to the post of Huzoor Sheristadar in any other district.

And your Petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

No. 204. ORDER THEREON, 21st August 1871, No. 1,424.

Miscellaneous.

As from Mr. Boswell's report it is evident that Simhadri Puntooloo is not qualified for the post of Sheristadar

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which he holds, the Government leave it to the Board of Revenue to arrange for his transfer to some more suitable post.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. DE C. SCOTT, Captain, R.E.,
Under-Secy., P.W.D.,

TESTIMONIALS
OF
E. SIMHADRI PUNTULU,
FROM
1st January 1848 to 16th May 1870.

22
E. Simhadri Row, 22 years' age when first entertained.

Establishment.	Date.	Appointment.	Salary.	Period of Service in each appointment.			Remarks regarding punishments, severe and formal reprimands, and all special commendations or marks of approbation.
				Years.	Months.	Days.	
1	2	3	4	5			6
Collector of Cuddapah.	1st January 1848	Additional Goomastah in Sub-Division Sheristah Cutcherry	10	0	4	0	In leaving the District it gives me great pleasure to record my unqualified approbation of the Services of Simhadri Row or Pantulu in the different situations he has held, particularly as Magistrate Javabnevis, he is unwearied in the performance of his duties, has good abilities, was well brought up by his uncle Krishna Row, and his sterling honesty and integrity point him out for speedy promotion, had a vacancy of Tahsildary occurred, I would, without hesitation, have nominated him to the vacancy.
	1st January 1849	Do. in the Sub-Division	10	0	4	0	
	11th May 1849	Sheristah Goomastah	14	1	1	6	
	16th June 1850	do.	17	0	5	26	
	12th December 1850	Acting Sheristah Goomastah in the Collector's office	21	1	3	24	
	5th April 1852	Do. in the Sub-Division	17	1	4	0	
	5th August 1853	Acting Deputy Moonshee in the Collector's office	21	0	8	6	
	30th November 1853	Acting Head Javabnevis confirmed on the 10th April 1854	28	4	4	21	
	10th April 1854	Do. do.	35	1	6	1	
	1st September 1858	Pay increased under the sanction of Government	15	1	1	1	
	2nd March 1860	Total Pay	50	0	2	10	
	11th May 1860	Tahsildar of Kadiri	105	0	1	21	
	1st July 1860	Magisterial Javabnevis	50	0	9	18	
	19th April 1861 to 16th May 1870	Vernacular Head Clerk Sheristadar	65	0	0	0	
		Do. from 19 November 1864	200	9	0	28	
Total			250	21	8	11	(Sd.) M. MURRAY. 31st March 1859.

From 17th May 1870 to 7 August 1871 - 5.7.50 - 22 11 24

He is conversant of both the Regulations and Circular Orders of Foujdary Udalut and Revenue Board. Simhadri Row has given me entire satisfaction in the discharge of his duties as Magistrate's Munshee. In token of this I have recommended him to the Sub-Collector for the Acting Tasildarship of Kadiri to which he has been nominated by that officer. I have no doubt he will fill the office well.

(Signed) J. FRASER,
Acting Collector.

On arrival in March 1860 I found Simhadri Pantulu, Acting Tahildar of Kadiri, which office he subsequently resigned on account of his health. He returned to his duty as Head Vernacular Clerk. On my Sheristadar Sudarsana being appointed a Deputy Collector of the Inam Commission, I appointed Simhadri Pantulu as my Sheristadar, in which office he has served two years up to this time to my perfect satisfaction. At the close of this year, it was my intention to have submitted his name to Government for the post of a Deputy Collector. I need add no more in his commendation, and part from him with regret.

(Signed) A. WEDDERBURN,
Collector.

31st March, 1863.

I have been in the District three months. During that time I have had reason to be well satisfied with Simhadri Pantulu. He has been of great assistance to me.

(Signed) J. R. COCKERELL,
Acting Collector.

1st November, 1865.

(True Extract)
(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Collector.

CUDAPPAN, 8th March 1866.

DEAR SHERISTADAR;

I enclose a letter addressed to the Collector, which you will read and deliver to him.

I cannot let go this opportunity without expressing how greatly gratified I am with the personal part taken by you in the arrangements in connection with my visit to this place. Indeed it is no exaggeration to say that I could not have expected this much of attention even from the officers of my own State. I am truly thankful to you, and shall long remember this visit to Cudappan with the highest pleasure.

Wishing you every success and happiness.

I am, your's very truly,

(Signed) RAMAH VARMAH,
First Prince of Travancore.

P. S.—I shall thank you for your informing the official and non-official gentlemen who called on me yesterday that I have been very much pleased and value the regard expressed by them.

(Signed) RAMAH VARMAH.

Extract of letter from Ramah Varmah, 1st Prince of Travancore, to the late H. G. SMITH, Esq., Collector of Cuddapah, dated 8th March 1866.

It will hardly be fair to close this letter without alluding to your good Sheristadar Simhadri Kan Pantulu. His attentions and civilities have been of the utmost use to me. He is, I fully believe, a very worthy officer, and is quite deserving of the regard and popularity which he, in no small measure, enjoys.

With kindest regards and sincere wishes for your good health.

I remain, dear Sir,

Your's very faithfully.

(Signed) RAMAH VARMAH,

CUDAPPAN, COLLECTOR'S OFFICE,
On Circuit at Muddenpully,
11th April 1863.

Nc 54.

FROM H. G. SMITH, Esq.,
Acting Collector of Cuddapah,

TO W. HUDLESTON, Esq.,
Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Fort Saint George,

SIR,

Mr. T. G. Ward, the Deputy Collector in charge of the Treasury, having obtained privilege leave for 3 months, and the other Deputy Collector P. R. S. Yappa Puntulu not understanding English, I have the honor to request that I may be allowed to place my Sheristadar E. Symvadry Puntulu in charge of the Treasury as he is fully competent to transact the business of the office, and I observe the Sheristadar of the Kistna District has been allowed to do so in that Division. The Jamabudy of this District is fully completed and I am therefore enabled to spare E. Symvadry Puntulu as a temporary measure which Mr. Wedderburn was not when he placed Mr. McQuhae in charge.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) H. G. SMITH,
Acting Collector.

(True Copy.)

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 7,323,
dated 13th October 1868.

Meanwhile Messrs. Molony and Roberts, Native Surgeon Iyasawmy, Sheristadar Simhadri Puntulu, and Tahsildar N. Appa Row are requested to accept the acknowledgments of Government of the valuable services rendered by them during the period over which distress was experienced in the district of Cuddapah.

1861-62. By Mr. WEDDERBURN.

I may also mention my Sheristadar, E. Simhadri Punthalu, as a very promising Servant.

1862-63. By Mr. SMITH.

34. During the short time I have been in charge of the District, I have every reason to be satisfied with the European and Native Officers of all grades.

1863-64.

35. In conclusion, I have the pleasure to inform the Board of the great co-operation I have experienced in all matters connected with the District from Messrs. Malony and McQuhae, Royappa Pantulu, and my Sheristadar E. Simhadri Pantulu, and I will add that I have reason to be pleased with my Native Officers generally.

1864-65. By Mr. COCKERELL.

35. I am led to believe that Mr. Smith has been well satisfied with the co-operation and assistance he has received from Mr. Horsley since that Officer has arrived in the District, and that he is also well satisfied with Mr. Roberts, the Acting Head Assistant, and Mr. Cruickshank, the Assistant. He also desires again to record his sense of the value of the service rendered to the District by the Deputy Collector, Royappa Pantulu and Mr. Ward, and by the Sheristadar Simhadri Pantulu. The Tamsildars and other Native Officers have given him satisfaction.

1865-66. By Mr. SMITH.

36. It is with great pleasure that I have to state the assistance I have received from all the Officers connected with the Revenue, particularly those in responsible charges. Amongst them I must mention W. D. Horsley, Esq., P. L. Roberts, Esq., A. Cruickshank, Esq., Royappa Pantulu, Simhadri Pantulu and T. G. Ward, Esq.

1866-67.

38. I beg to acknowledge the assistance which I have received from all the Subordinate Officers connected with the Revenue, particularly those in responsible charges, of whom I must mention Messrs. P. L. Roberts, J. F. Smith, A. Cruickshank, P. Royappa Pantulu, T. G. Ward, and E. Simhadri Pantulu.

1867-68. By Mr. MALONY.

33. I must also express the opinion I entertain of the services of Deputy Collectors Royappa Pantulu and Sri Dauliah. The former has maintained fully the high character he bears, and the latter has, in a most difficult position acquitted himself in a manner which cannot fail to raise his reputation, especially as an officer in charge of a Treasury. I regret that the district is so soon to lose the services of both these Deputy Collectors.

The Huzoor Sheristadar Simhadri Pantulu is well known to the Board as an able and hard-working Officer. His services during the past year, one of no ordinary difficulty, have been of the greatest value to me.

CUDDAPAH,

19th October 1868. }

R 2555/71-

The 21st Aug 71 In. D. No 202.

Recd 1871/ Sep-
No 2555

From E. Shikadry, punitoolo.
Huzar Sheristadar
Kistia Dist.

21st 9 Aug 71
U. 2 8 11.

Deco 1421-21 August 1871

Stating that he has been
given & understood that Mr.
Boswell, C. O. of Kistia has ad-
vised Mr. P. P. P. very strongly
his competency to take post of
Huzar Sheristadar, & under the
circumstances stated for any that
may be transferred to him
but in any other Dist.

Recd 21st Aug 1871
In B. No

21st Aug 71 R. 21st

10202-203

Govt. of 1871 Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Date 1 August 21st.

Recd.

G. O., 21st August 1871, No. 1,421.

AUGUST.

Nos. 202-201.

*Schahaji Purnani, Huzoor Sheristadar,
Kistna District—On service that as he is not
qualified for the post of Sheristadar, the Govern-
ment leave it to the Board of Revenue to arrange
for his transfer to some more suitable post.*