

1732

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
5th September 1871.*

No. 51. Read the following Proceedings of the Court of Wards, dated 10th July 1871, No. 2,832 :—

Read the following letter from the Collector of Tinnevely, to the Acting Secretary to the Court of Wards, dated Vagaikulam, 19th May 1871, No. 208.

As required in paragraph 31 of the Court's Proceedings No. 1,212, dated 20th March 1871, I have the honour to report on the management of the Ettiapurum Estate.

2. I have visited Ettiapurum, and looked into the accounts, the state of affairs is as under :—

3. The estate is very extensive, running up from the sea coast near Tuticorin for 40 miles inland ; it equals a large talook in size, and includes much of that tract of country known as the cotton plains. It will be skirted, if not actually traversed by the railway, and, with good management, might be made a very valuable estate. As it is, the peishcush is but 88,451 Rs., while the nominal revenue is 3,02,000 Rs. ; this latter amount may be doubled, and the condition of the people may be greatly improved, if the Minor performs his duties as a landlord when the estate passes into his hands. Unfortunately, however, the Ettiapurum Zemindars have been in the habit of considering themselves Maha Rajahs, and have never left their palace except with pomp and ceremony ; the affairs of the Zemin have consequently fallen into the hands of servants, whose highest salary is 21 Rs. a-month, and the estate has suffered accordingly.

4. All the confusion and anomalies that characterised our revenue-system of some years back is here to be found in full vigour ; and, judging by the accounts, the state of the villages, and condition of the people, it seems as though all had stagnated, as no doubt it has, and that all has remained precisely as it was when the Istimirar Sunnud was granted. There is not a road in the estate with the exception of the cotton road, and the black soil is impassable after rain. The villages are collections of thatched huts, where human beings and cattle crowd indiscriminately ; and the people are rude and ignorant, with no knowledge of any thing beyond their immediate circle.

5. The Minor is a well grown lad of 14, and, with his younger brother aged 13 and a cousin aged 12, has been very well grounded by a private tutor who holds a Teacher's certificate. Education at home, however, will do but little to open his mind or fit the Minor for his future position in life, and I have strongly urged on him the necessity of travelling to make himself acquainted with men and manners. This he seems anxious to do, but his uncle, the Manager, is strictly conservative and, hardly ever having quitted the palace himself, is averse to his nephew's removal. Economy may perhaps have something to do with this, for, on occasions when journeys have been made to meet the Collector and so forth, the expenses have been very heavy, and the family think it derogatory not to pay with old fashioned profusion.

6. This can now, of course, be got over ; and I think it highly desirable that the Court should order the Minors to travel, without any State and under the care of their tutor and some other competent person, to Madura, Trichinopoly, Tanjore, Combaconum, Cuddalore, Pondicherry, and Madras, during the next cold season ; the Manager might remain at home, and devote himself to the estate.

7. As the Board may remember I recommended the nomination of the uncle as Manager in 1869 on the grounds that he had long been *de facto* the Manager.

during his brother's life-time, and that it was better that he should continue than that the Court of Wards should take the estate under management. My recent visit to Ettiapuram and a scrutiny of the accounts has modified my views I confess, but I still think it desirable to retain the uncle in charge, if he will but exert himself and adopt the improvements suggested.

8. A copy of my memorandum on the principal points that require his attention is herewith appended, and a glance at this will inform the Court of the general state of affairs.

9. The estate is free from debt, and there is a certain margin of profit; it is not so large as it might be; but on the understanding that 1,00,000 Rs. is annually set aside for the purchase of Government securities for the Minor's benefit, it will be well perhaps not to go into details or attempt to effect reforms which might now be very distasteful, and which will probably be all set aside when the Minor attains his majority.

10. The Minor, his brother, and cousin, can all read, write, and talk English and Tamil, and have some acquaintance with Geography, the simple rules of Arithmetic, and Indian History. I have left a written memorandum with their tutor as to the points to which he should direct their attention and the best mode of interesting them in their studies, and as he is an intelligent and pains-taking man, I expect they will make good progress under his tuition.

11. The Avudayapuram Minors alluded to in paragraph 32 of the Court's Proceedings abovementioned have been put to school, together with the Maniachi Minor, at Palamcottah.

*Enclosure No. 1.
Memorandum on the Ettiapuram Zemindary.*

The boundary of the Estate is now being surveyed, and the topographical details are being laid in by the Revenue Survey. The Estate is so irregular in form, and the several blocks of which it is composed are so scattered that an outline map will not be of the same value that it would be were the Estate all in one compact block. The Collector will therefore ask the Superintendent of Revenue Survey to be good enough to furnish a few copies of the map, with the villages roughly sketched in, to show their respective localities. In the meantime there are several boundary disputes of more or less importance along the line of frontier, some of which have yet to be settled. Arrangements will be made for these, and the progress of the survey will be expedited as much as possible.

2. There are but 3,784 kottahs of irrigated land in the entire Estate. Of these 313 are Inam, 755 are held in Pannei, 337 are "Utharamaniem" Inam granted by the Zemindar, 61 are Katugutagai or Porupu, 865 pay a fixed money or grain rental, and the remaining 1,453 Kottahs pay varam. The division of the crop on varam in numerous outlying villages places the tenants so completely at the mercy of the Zemin servants, that endless disputes arise, and both the Zemindar and the tenants suffer. To put an end to all this it would be well worthwhile to abolish the varam tenure by the substitution of a money-assessment, calculated on the average melwaram of each field for the last three years, commuted into money at the current market price; for this, a form is herewith attached, and, if needed, a Guma-stah can be deputed to make the calculations and prepare the accounts, as has lately been done for the Singampatti Estate, and the Tirukurungudi Chuttrum lands. When the accounts are prepared puttahs should be issued in the accompanying simple form, and an Adi Olei or agreement to cultivate and pay the amount exhibited in his puttah should be taken from each tenant agreeably to the provisions of Section 3 of Act VIII. of 1865.

3. The road-cess should be calculated on the amount of land assessment paid by each tenant, and not on the gross collections; tree-tax, grazing-tax, fishery, tank, merab, etc., etc., being free from all charge for this cess.

4. Certain irrigated lands have been let out on lease for thirty-six years on terms apparently very advantageous to the Estate. It was a mistake to lease these lands at all, as Section 15 of Regulation V. of 1804 prohibits lands being leased for a longer period than one year, while an estate is under management, and the excessively high terms of the lease alluded to render it almost certain that the rental will not be paid in bad years more especially. It will therefore be well to cancel this lease at once, and to treat the lands in the way proposed in paragraph 2 by the imposition of a money-assessment on each field.

5. All the trees on the estate in the occupation of tenants are now taxed, and the Zemindar sells all withered or uprooted trees; there is thus no encouragement to the tenants to plant, and a tract of country which is peculiarly exposed to the fury of the wind during June, July, and August, is now desolate and bare of trees. It would be a wise policy to offer such terms as would induce the tenants to plant trees about their fields, and a remission of the tree-tax on trees hereafter planted on puttah lands would no doubt effect this object. The Zemindar himself might plant topes on waste or Pannei lands, and grow palmyras on tank-banks with great benefit to the estate.

6. Zemin puttahs have been issued to certain ryots for Inam lands confirmed on certain Inamdars by the Inam Commissioner; this is an irregularity that should be at once rectified by cancelling the puttahs and putting the Inamdars in possession.

7. There are several tracts of jungle grazing ground known as Sirukadu scattered about the Zemindary; these are watched by the Zemin Kavalgars, and when the grass has well grown up, they are usually leased out to headmen for some 2,000 Rs. each, and sub-let to individuals at the rate of half a Rupee or so for each head of cattle that graze there; one of these grazing tracts near Ottapidaram has formed the subject of dispute between the Zemin Manager and the adjacent villagers. The Manager demanding 2 Rs. a head for the cattle that graze there, and the villagers refusing to pay any thing; this has led to riots, and charge and counter-charge before the Magistracy and eventually to a Civil Suit, the Manager claiming arrears of rental at the rate of 10,000 Rs. a-year for two years. The area of the disputed ground is about 2,500 acres, and a grazing tax of 4 Rs. an acre on this is of course out of the question. The Manager has, however, expressed a wish to settle the matter amicably, and the villagers concerned, after some discussion, have agreed to reasonable terms; they agree to pay a lump sum of 2,000 Rs. per annum on contract, allowing the Pannei cattle (the number to be hereafter determined) the right of grazing free, or else to take up the whole area on puttah at the full punjah rates of the adjacent villages. Either arrangement is clearly advantageous to the Zemin, and the Collector trusts that the dispute is now settled, and that the suit will be withdrawn.

8. Several other suits have been filed in Court by the Manager without the Collector's knowledge, and the law expenses of the past year have amounted to more than 9,000 Rs. One of these suits with Yettiah, a natural son of the late Zemindar, has been revived even after appeal to the Privy Council, and after a final settlement of the question. This apparently purposeless litigation on the part of a minor estate must be at once put a stop to, and the Collector desires that no fresh suit may be filed without previous communication with him.

9. From the accounts furnished by Narayana Iyen, Vakeel of the Zemindary, it appears that the receipts for Fusly 1279 were Rs. 4,02,129-4-3, and the expenditure Rs. 2,61,879-14-3, leaving a balance to the credit of the estate of Rs. 1,40,249-6-0; an examination of the items of receipt and expenditure reveal a great want of system in management, and a recklessness of expenditure that is much to be regretted at a time when the estate ought to be carefully nursed for the benefit of the Minor. Exclusive of peishcash and taxes, amounting to Rs. 98,427, more than 1,00,000 of Rs. has been spent in the course of the year; the principal items of expenditure are establishment Rs. 20,063, batta to servants, etc., Rs. 15,094, pagoda expenses, ceremonies, and charities Rs. 5,632, suits and Court expenses Rs. 9,272, maramut Rs. 19,134, keep of animals Rs. 10,448, house-hold expenses Rs. 8,071, and miscellaneous Rs. 18,232. The cost of establishment and servants' batta, aggregating to more than 35,159 Rs. seems out of proportion to the requirements of the Zemindary. The public servants are few, and, as a rule, under-paid, their grading and salaries are as follow, and the pay

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which each man should receive in the Collector's opinion is placed in juxtaposition: if these rates are paid no batta will be necessary:—

No.	Rank.	Rate per mensem.	Amount.	Proposed Pay.	Remarks.
	<i>General.</i>		RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	
1	Peischar	At 21 Rs.	21 0 0	40 0 0	
1	Clerk	" 10 "	10 0 0	15 0 0	
1	Do.	" 7 "	7 0 0	10 0 0	
1	Tinnevely Vakil	" 14 "	14 0 0	21 0 0	
1	Tuticorin do.	" 10 "	10 0 0		} Not needed.
1	Ottapidaram do.	" 7 "	7 0 0		
1	Cusbah do.	" 7 "	7 0 0	15 0 0	
4	Peons... ..	" 3½ each.	14 0 0	20 0 0	
1	Vakil at Madras	" 14 "	14 0 0		Do.
1	Subadar	" 4 "	4 0 0	8 0 0	
11	Peons... ..	" 3 "	33 0 0	55 0 0	
	Saderward charges		4 0 0	4 0 0	
	<i>Account.</i>		145 0 0	188 0 0	43 Increase.
1	Sheristadar	At 15 Rs.	15 0 0	30 0 0	
1	Goomastah	" 10 "	10 0 0	15 0 0	
1	Do.	" 8 "	8 0 0	10 0 0	
5	Do.	" 7 each.	35 0 0	50 0 0	
6	Peons	" 2½ do.	15 0 0	30 0 0	
	<i>Treasury.</i>		83 0 0	135 0 0	52 Do.
1	Head Shroff	At 10 Rs.	10 0 0	20 0 0	
1	Shroff	" 6 "	6 0 0	15 0 0	
1	Goomastah	" 10 "	10 0 0	15 0 0	
1	Do.	" 8 "	8 0 0	10 0 0	
1	Do.	" 7 "	7 0 0	10 0 0	
	<i>Granary.</i>		41 0 0	70 0 0	29 Do.
1	Goomastah	At 8 Rs.	8 0 0	15 0 0	
1	Do.	" 6 "	6 0 0	10 0 0	
1	Do.	" 5 "	5 0 0	10 0 0	
	<i>Maramut.</i>		19 0 0	35 0 0	16 Do.
3	Superintendents	At 10 Rs.	30 0 0	45 0 0	
1	Maistry	" 3 "	3 0 0	10 0 0	
1	Goomastah	" 7 "	7 0 0	10 0 0	
1	Do.	" 5 "	5 0 0	10 0 0	
	<i>Store.</i>		45 0 0	75 0 0	30 Do.
1	Superintendent	At 7 Rs.	7 0 0	15 0 0	
2	Goomastahs	" 5 each.	10 0 0	20 0 0	
	<i>Vanidams.</i>		17 0 0	35 0 0	18 Do.
9	Peishcars	At 10 Rs. each	90 0 0	180 0 0	
11	Royasams	" 4 "	44 0 0	110 0 0	
32	Peons... ..	" 2 "	64 0 0	160 0 0	
	Saderward charges		4 8 0	4 8 0	
23	Kavilgars	" 1½ "	34 8 0	34 8 0	
	<i>Teachers.</i>		237 0 0	489 0 0	252 Do.
1	English Teacher	At 75 Rs.	75 0 0	100 0 0	
1	Telugu do.	" 7 "	7 0 0	20 0 0	
			82 0 0	120 0 0	38 Do.
			669 0 0	1,147 0 0	478 Do.

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10. The cost of the Zemin public servants being only Rs. 8,028, and the attendance about the palace costing but Rs. 5,740 more, it follows that the difference, or Rs. 21,382, has been laid out on persons whose services are not required.

Now it has been brought to the Collector's notice that it has always been the custom to subsidise the Government servants at Satur, Ottapidaram, Vilatikulum, and Kaitar, all of whom have more or less to do with the estate, with a considerable addition to the pay they draw from Government, the Collector desires that this irregularity be at once put a stop to, and that no payments be made on any pretence whatever to any Government servant. The peishcush and taxes are remitted from the Zemindary to the Huzoor direct, and there is no excuse whatever for paying any money to talook officers who are liable to a severe punishment for receiving it. The Manager is requested to intimate to the Collector in writing that he has discontinued these payments and will not permit them ever to be made in future.

11. The pagoda expenses, ceremonies, and charities are excessive; the annual ceremony of one of the former Zemindars deceased being no less than Rs. 1,278-12-5. The Collector has no wish to restrict the Manager in acting with becoming liberality, but the total of Rs. 5,500, might well be reduced to a maximum of Rs. 3,000, while the Estate is under management.

12. The Maramut expenses of Rs. 19,134 include the completion of the bungalow now occupied by the Assistant Superintendent of Police at Kovilpatti, and the extension of the Collector's bungalow at Palamcottah. The monthly rentals of these buildings, viz., 30 Rs. and 165 Rs. respectively, have not been brought to account. This should be done in future, and now that all required by the bungalows and the Zemin palace has been completed, the maramut expenses should be limited to 5,000 Rs. in future. There are but few tanks in the Zemin, and a comparatively moderate outlay will put all these in order.

13. It is to be hoped that there will be no future charge for suits and Court expenses as mentioned above, in paragraph 9, the Sirukadu dispute is settled, and the suit with Yettiah should be withdrawn, or only continued if the Collector is satisfied that it contains fresh matter not already disposed of by the Privy Council.

14. The other principal items require no special comment, but all are capable of reduction, and the Collector anticipates next year a saving on the present year's expenditure of Rs. 16,162 on establishment, Rs. 2,500 on pagodas, ceremonies and charities, Rs. 14,000 on Maramut, and 9,000 Rs. on suits and Court expenses; total 41,662. The cash balance to credit is this year Rs. 64,220-9-9; it should be 1,00,000 Rs.; but as this is the first year in which the accounts have been audited, the Collector is prepared to pass them, subject to the confirmation of the Court of Wards, on the express understanding that the foregoing comments are acted on, and that the balance to credit shall be 1,00,000 Rs. in future; the balance of Rs. 64,220-9-9 should be at once remitted to the Huzoor Treasury with the view of Government securities to that amount being purchased in the name of the Minor.

15. A separate account of the expenditure of the grain in store now valued at Rs. 17,000, should be furnished.

STATEMENT showing the particulars of Estate in charge of the Guardians or relatives of the Minor proprietors in Fusly 1279 in the district of Tinnevely.

* Includes Rs. 12,058.14.1 the balance on hand in the Pannei.

MANGALAKURICHI,
20th May 1871.

(Signed) **R. K. PUCKLE,**
Collector.

Miscellaneous.

(True Extract.)

Exd.⁶ F. R. Bantleman.

C. No 2377

No 1533

Revenue Dept: 66

Pro: Court of Wards
10 July 1871, No 2,832.

The proceedings of the Court
of Wards are approved. The
Govt do not doubt that the
Collector will maintain a
careful watch on the manage-
ment of the Estate.

2. The Govt approve
of the suggestion of the Court
that the uncle of the Minor
Zemindar should be assisted
by an active intelligent person
in the management of the
Estate. The Collector will take
care that the Estate receives
its due share in the appro-
priation of local funds for
roads

Rev. 1871. Dept
Court of Wards,
No 2377
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 10TH JULY 1871, No. 2,832.

Dep. 22 July 71

Encl.

Received 24

JULY.

No. 2,832.

Ettiapuram Estate in Tanjore District, —
now under management of Court of Wards, —
Collector requested to submit his opinion as to
whether it may not be desirable to appoint a
person to assist minor proprietor's uncle in ma-
nagement of, and if so, to recommend a qualified
man. — Manager of estate to be communicated with
on subject of course proposed to be made by
minors.

1533-5 September 1871

1534-5
The proceedings of the Court of Wards are approved. The Govt do not doubt that the Collector will maintain a careful watch on the management of the Estate.
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roads.

3 The Govt are desirous
that the young Zemindar
should visit Madras on his
tour

112 To the Govt of Madras Dec 15/41

6.6

through ...
... in ...

5-9-71
254.5

No 54-55