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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 185 Press ~~Mis.~~

377-79

Dated 27. 1 1871.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 27th January 1871.

Read the following :—

No. 377. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 20th September 1870, No. 5,812.

Read the following letter from the Collector of South Arcot, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cuddalore, 27th July 1870, No. 205.

I HAVE the honour to report the death, on the 13th May last, of Vencatroyah Bundary, late Zemindar or Moottahdar of Vettavalum in the Trinamallay Taluq of this district, at the age of 33 years. The deceased was the adopted son of Vencatakrishna Bundary, and succeeded his adoptive father on the latter's demise in February 1855.

2. The present deceased, when almost in *articulo mortis*, sent me a letter, dated 11th May, intimating his expected death, and saying that he had adopted his nephew, one Appasawmy Bundary, a youth aged about 16 years, and whom he desired might be allowed to succeed to his estates. Deceased has left two widows, who admit the adoption of Appasawmy Bundary, and they second their husband's request, that the adopted son may succeed to the property. His father and brother are also still living, and it is the son of the latter who has been adopted.

3. Inquiry shows that apart from the adoption, Appasawmy Bundary is strictly the legal heir and representative of the deceased, and would necessarily succeed his uncle (now adoptive father).

4. It is worthy of remark that since 1816 the successors to this Zemindary have always been adopted sons, and the adoption has always taken place, and the fact reported within a few hours of the death of the Zemindar. The explanation of this is the hope of issue to the last, and I believe the late Zemindar had been buoyed up with some such expectation to within a very short period of his demise.

5. The history of this Zemindary will be found on the records of the Board for 1815 and 1816, and is briefly referred to in a later correspondence between the Board and Government, which accompanied the Board's letter to the then Collector of South Arcot, under date the 5th November 1832, in reply to the Collector's letter of the 31st December 1829, reporting the death of the then Poligar.

6. The adopted son appointed in 1832 enjoyed the estates until his death in 1855, when, as above stated, he was succeeded by his adopted son, whose death is the subject of the present report.

7. A petition was received by me by post on the 14th June, bearing eight signatures repudiating the fact of the adoption, and declaring that the deceased for several days before his death was not in a condition to adopt, and suggesting that the estates do revert to Government, and the widows be allowed maintenance only. I did not at first intend to notice this petition, believing it to be, as it subsequently proved, pseudonymous, and every inquiry had been made on the spot by the Tahsildar; but I afterwards summoned all the parties whose signatures it professed to bear, of whom five only were forthcoming, the remaining three were reported to be unknown. The five who appeared were examined on oath; they not only denied the authorship of the petition, or the signatures on it to be their own, but they declared the adoption to be *bona fide*, and were present at it. But

whether true or not, Government having already decided that the Poliyam should be continued in perpetuity in the family, the alleged adopted son would succeed as a matter of course.

8. It only remains, therefore, for me to recommend that Appasawmy Bundary be recognized as the future Zemindar; but as he is a minor, his age being only a little over 16 years, it appears the strictly proper course to take the estates under the Court of Wards, and also to place the youth under the control of that Court, until he attains his majority, which it is ascertained will not be before the 16th May 1872.

9. The Vettavalum estate comprises thirteen villages, situated in three taluqs, and of the respective value as given in the margin, and has hitherto paid a peishcush of Rs. 70; but on this subject I desire the Board's instructions, as it seems to me this amount is incorrect, and should no longer be levied. The original peishcush fixed was 10 Pagodas or Rs. 35, as explained in the Collector's letter of the 27th November 1849, but to which no further orders have since been received. A reference to the correspondence indicated in the margin will place the Board in possession of what has passed in this matter, and it remains for decision whether payment of Rs. 70 is to be continued, or whether it should be reduced to Rs. 35, which strictly is the correct amount leviable.

No. of villages.	Taluq.			Value.
				Rs.
7	Trinamallay	...	...	4,204
4	Trikalore ...	...	...	2,893
2	Villapuram...	...	...	1,856

From Board, 25th July 1816 and 8th Dec. 1817.
To ,, ,, 10th Oct. 1849.
From ,, ,, 1st Nov. ,,
To ,, ,, 27th ,, ,,

10. As regards the management of the estate and the guardianship of the Minor, I request for my guidance all needful instructions from the Board of Revenue in their capacity of Court of Wards; meanwhile, as the family are living together, and are undivided, I have at present in no way interfered with the existing state of things, and I have allowed everything to remain as it was at the date of the late Zemindar's decease, in the belief, on the assurance of the several members of the family, that all was under proper management and control.

The Vettavallum estate having been granted in perpetuity as an hereditary estate, the necessity of obtaining the sanction of Government for the recognition of the heir is not apparent. The Collector will report whether an Istimrar Sunnud has ever been issued.

2. It is clear, however, that Appasawmy Bundary is heir to the estate, and as he is a minor, the Collector should take charge of the estate, pending orders from Government as to whether the Court of Wards are to intervene or not, and submit a detailed report of the description enjoined in Regulation V. of 1804, Section 3.

3. He should give an account of the financial state of the Zemindary, and state any circumstances (including the wishes, etc., of the Minor's relatives) which tell for or against the intervention of the Court.

JB

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 27th January 1871.

4. With regard to the peishcush the Collector is referred to Extract Minutes of Consultation, 16th February 1850, No. 179, in which Government, after Mr. Hyde's mistake had been brought to their notice, decided that it should be continued at Rs. 70 per annum.

Board's Procs., 25th Feb. 1850, No. 399.

No. 378. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 7th December 1870, No. 6,987:—

Read the following letter from the Collector of South Arcot, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cuddalore, 27th October 1870, No. 286.

In reply to the Board's Proceedings, No. 5,812, of the 20th September, I have the honour to state that no Istimrar Sunnud has ever been granted to the Vettavalam Zemindar.

2. I have had the youth Appasawmy Bundary before me, and have had a long interview with him. I am of opinion that he is far older than has been represented; in appearance he is above 20, has initial whiskers and moustache, and he appears fully competent to manage the estate for himself, and it is his wish to do so, as well as that of his family; and consequently I do not think there is any necessity to place the estate under the Court of Wards, and I have, therefore, not considered it necessary to submit the details required in paragraph 2.

3. I enclose a detailed Statement of the receipts and disbursements connected with the Zemindari during the past year. I had called for an account for the past ten years, but this cannot be given without difficulty, and calling in accounts and vouchers which are not ready of access, but I am promised the Statement after reasonable time for its preparation, should it still be required. The past year's account, if to be relied on, attests the flourishing condition of the property, and evidences an absence of extravagance on the part of the late Zemindar in his personal expenses and in the management of his affairs.

4. The Minutes of Consultation brought to my notice in paragraph 4 of the Board's Proceedings were overlooked in my office, nor does it appear that they were made known to the late Zemindar. It has now been intimated to his successor that the peishcush has been fixed at 70 Rs. per annum.

Enclosures Nos. 1 and 2.—Statements.

Submitted for the orders of Government.

2. Under the circumstances stated by the Collector in paragraph 2 of this letter, there appears to be no necessity for placing the estate under the management of the Court of Wards.

3. With reference to paragraph 1 of his letter, the Collector should advise the new proprietor to apply for a Sunnud for his estate.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 27th January 1871.

No. 379. ORDER THEREON, 27th January 1871, No. 183.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government agree with the Board in considering that the intervention of the Court of Wards is not called for.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Govt. of {1871} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated January 27th.

Recd. Encl.

G. O., 27th January 1871, No. 183.

JANUARY.
Nos. 377—379.

Vettavalam estate in South Arcot.—Its management by the Court of Wards on behalf of the minor, considered unnecessary.

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