

No. 237. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 20th August 1872, No. 1,640:—

Read the following letter from W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., Acting Collector of North Arcot, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Palmanair, 26th July 1872, No. 336:—

I HAVE the honour to request the instructions of the Board on the subject of remuneration claimed by the Monigars of the seventeen villages transferred in 1871 from the taluq of Conjeveram in the Chingleput District to that of Wallajah in this district.

2. The Collector of Chingleput, to whom a reference was made on the subject, states that the Monigars in his district have no remuneration either in the shape of landed Inams or Merahs (fees), and that the Inam lands claimed as Monigar's Inam in the seventeen villages in question are common to all the villagers, and that they are known as "Grama Maniems," and were so held by the Inam Commissioner and Government.

3. In Fasli 1272 (A. D. 1862-63), when the question of remunerating the Monigars was agitated in the resumed Avalconda Jaghire villages, etc., Mr. Fraser ordered that according to Rule 25 of the Taluq Manual the fees claimed by the Monigars should be included in the putta demand against each ryot.

4. At the same time, the Monigars of these seventeen villages made similar claim, and furnished what now appears to be an imaginary statement of fees due to them. This statement was accepted, and the amount therein specified was included in the demand against each village. The practice was then regularly continued year after year, but the ryots have invariably refused to pay anything for the Monigars; and in the case of a few ryots, the payment was made *under protest* in one or two years when their property was in danger of being attached for the arrears of revenue against them.

5. The Board, in their Proceedings dated 18th June 1863, No. 3,593, in reviewing the report of the Collector made upon petition presented by the ryots of the late Avalcondah Jaghire to be exempted from liability to pay Merahs to Monigars, have ordered "that it is not advisable to make any change in the system or principle of collection for the present" in anticipation of the passing of the Village Cess Act; but when Mr.

Fraser pointed* out the difficulty in undoing the settlement already made, they observed that "it is not expedient at present to disturb the arrangement made by the Collector at the last Jummahbundy: the system having once been introduced may be continued."

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
30th August 1872.*

6. But as the arrangement then made had no practical effect, and the operation of the Village Cess Act is not extended to this district, I beg permission to exclude from the putta of ryots all items on account of fees to the Monigars, who, it is clear, are not of right entitled to receive them. The arrear in this respect continues to disfigure the accounts, and will never be realized; so that it becomes absolutely necessary to make other arrangements for remunerating the Monigars for the collection of Government revenue, etc., in those seventeen villages.

7. I apprehend that the Village Cess Act cannot legalize the collection of fees not *customarily* paid, and as it is highly necessary to make arrangements for the collection of Government revenue, and for the performance of other village work, I beg to suggest that a Zilladar be appointed and remunerated by Government to superintend the collection, etc., in those villages.

8. I understand that this proposal is in accordance with the practice obtaining in the Chingleput District, and trust that it will meet with the Board's approval.

9. In the meantime, I propose to treat the items on account of fees now included in the puttass of ryots as "irrecoverable."

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. The Collector of North Arcot represents the urgent necessity of providing for the collection of revenue in seventeen villages transferred from the Chingleput District in 1861. These villages have Monigars for whom no *merahs* or other remuneration has ever been provided. At one time their unsupported claims to *merahs* were countenanced by the Collector who caused the amounts claimed by them to be entered in the ryots' puttass, but did not succeed in collecting the money from the ryots. This experiment was undoubtedly illegal, and the retention of the demand against the ryots on the revenue accounts cannot be permitted. Mr. Whiteside will cause the amount to be written off as irrecoverable.

3. Meanwhile, the Monigars are wholly unremunerated and consequently indifferent and inefficient. The Collector recommends that a Zilladar be appointed to collect the revenue as in Chingleput, where probably these villages were under such an officer. A Zilladar is a sort of Assistant Revenue Inspector receiving a fixed salary; the office is to be found only in Chingleput.

4. The Board are of opinion that the proper remedy is to pay the Monigars by a percentage on the collection as Curnams and Monigars are now paid in parts of South Arcot. If the Government acquiesce in this arrangement, the Collector will be desired to report what is the revenue of the villages.

5. If the matter is postponed to the introduction of the Village Service Act it is impossible to say how many years may elapse before a remedy is supplied, as the Act awaits the tardy progress of the settlement, and may even then be found difficult of introduction in this and other districts.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
30th August 1872.*

No. 238.

ORDER THEREON, 30th August 1872, No. 1,264.

Miscellaneous.

THE system which was observed in the villages in question before their transfer from Chingleput to North

Arcot should be continued by the employment of a Zillahdar. The Government see no necessity for any change.

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Accountant-General.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

No. 2842
Dec. 1872. West
Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 20TH AUGUST 1872, No. 1,640.

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Encl.

Received

27th August 1872

AUGUST.
 No. 1,640.

Monigars—of seventeen villages transferred in 1871 from Conjevaram Talug in Chingleput District to Wallajah Talug in North Arcot.—Collector directed to write off as irrecoverable amounts illegally entered in ryots' puttas on account of remuneration of—. Recommendation made to Government that Monigars should be paid by a percentage on collections.

Wt Order
No 1264-30 Aug. 1872

14. Board Dec 5. 54/72
6. Act. General in

No 1264
The system of the revenue in the village in question is in accordance with the provisions of the Act of 1864. The system of the revenue in the village in question is in accordance with the provisions of the Act of 1864.
14. Board Dec 5. 54/72
6. Act. General in