

1384

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
4th October 1872.*

No. 34. Read the following Proceedings of the Court of Wards, dated 20th September 1872, No. 1,877:—

Read the following letter from R. K. PUCKLE, Esq., Collector of Tinnevely, to the Secretary to the Court of Wards, dated Courtallum, 26th August 1872, No. 392:—

THE Avudyapuram Minor came of age on the 1st July last, and the Manager Kasukadei Velayudam Pillai was ordered to make over the Estate to him. This, however, he has hitherto failed to do, and on various pretences is still holding back the accounts of last year.

2. In my letter of 4th March 1871, embodied in Court's Proceedings, No. 1,427 of 31st March 1871, I explained that this man had had the management of the Estate for ten years, during which period some 2 lakhs of Rupees must have passed through his hands.

3. The debts of the Estate, however, which originally amounted to Rupees 72,000, had been only reduced by Rupees 12,000 in the course of these ten years, and Velayudam Pillai's mismanagement (if not worse) was so apparent that on 5th January 1871, I called on him to discharge the debts and hand over the Estate free of encumbrance on the Minor's coming of age; this he agreed to do, as per Muchilka forwarded for the Court's inspection, and he actually did pay Rupees 18,540, the remainder of the debt, however, still remains undischarged.

4. On 2nd December 1871, *vide* Court's Proceedings, No. 147, dated 23rd January 1872 I requested the Court's permission to proceed against the Manager's property in default of further payment, agreeably to the terms of the agreement, but the Court desired me to refrain from attaching the property. Though the Peishcush has been paid up to April 1872, the last two instalments for Fasli 1281 were not paid by the Manager. A portion of the arrears was recovered by the sale of paddy in store, but there is a balance of Rupees 1,442-9-6 outstanding against the Estate.

5. For many years it had been the custom in the Collector's Cutcherry to accept an abstract account from this Manager to embody in the returns submitted to the Court of Wards, but I insisted on a detailed account being furnished for Fasli 1280, and on handing this over to the Minor for check by his friends, I am told that the greater part of it is entirely false and fraudulent.

6. The enclosed copy of a Petition A. from the Minor shows the items alleged to be false.

7. As may be supposed, the Estate is in the greatest confusion; the ryots refuse to pay, and there are two or more factions among the subordinate servants, retainers and hangers-on, who are fiercely opposed to each other.

8. Under such circumstances, it would be a mere farce to hand over the Estate to the Zemindar, and as he has requested (Petition B.) that his Estate should be taken in charge by the Court of Wards for a year, I recommend that this may be done, and that the Estate be reduced to something like order before it is finally parted with.

9. During this year the ryots can be brought to terms, the irrigation works put in repair, and the lands roughly surveyed and registered. In the meantime, I can ascertain the truth of the charges brought against the Manager, and so determine how far he is liable to Criminal and Civil action.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
4th October 1872.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 1 and 2.—Petitions.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. The Collector of Tinnevely reports that the Minor Zemindar of Avudyapuram came of age on the 1st of July last, but that the Manager has hitherto failed to hand over the Estate or to submit his accounts. To some accounts which have been delivered to the Zemindar the latter demurs and charges the Manager with fraud. The last two instalments of Peishcush are still unpaid and the Estate continues burdened with debt, although the Manager entered into an agreement with the Collector to discharge all the liabilities of the Estate before the Minor came of age.

3. The causes of this unfortunate state of things were summed up in the Court's Proceedings noted in the margin, and it is unnecessary to recapitulate them here. In paragraph 2 of the Government Order thereon, they refused to allow the Court to take charge of the Estate as the minority was about to expire.

4. The Zemindar himself now begs that his Estate may be taken charge of and the debts liquidated before handing it over to him and the Collector says it would be a mere farce to hand over the Zemindari as it stands. As the Zemindar's minority is at an end it is impossible for the Court of Wards to assume charge of the property but as the Government Peishcush is in arrears there is no reason why the Zemindari should not be attached and placed under the Collector's management for another year as he suggests.

5. The arrangement by which the Estate was placed under a Manager without being taken under charge of the Court of Wards was most unfortunate and, although the Government are in no way responsible for the Manager's acts, it is but fair that the Collector's assistance should be given to the Zemindar when asked by him to remedy as far as possible the confusion which has arisen from the omission of the Court of Wards to take charge of his property during his infancy.

No. 35.

ORDER THEREON, 4th October 1872, No. 1,384.

Miscellaneous.

THE Collector is authorized to attach and manage the Avudiapuram Estate as proposed by the Board.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,

asked by him to remedy as far as possible the confusion which has arisen from the omission of the Court of Wards to take charge of his property during his infancy.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Chief Secretary to Government, R. D., with two original enclosures.
Copy to the Collector of Tinnevely.

Exd. G. A. Turton.

Avudyapuram Minor Zemindar.—Letter from Collector of Tinnevely reporting that the Minor came of age on 1st July 1872, but that the Manager of the Estate has hitherto failed to hand over the property to him or to submit his accounts, and recommending that the Estate be placed under the management of the Court of Wards for a year, submitted for the orders of Government, with the remark that the Court cannot take charge of the Estate, but that it may be attached for arrears of Peishcush, and placed under the Collector.

Rev. 1872. Sept.
Court of Wards,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 20TH SEPTEMBER 1872, No. 1,877.

Received

SEPTEMBER.

No. 1,877.

9.0. With order
No 1384. 14 October 1872

Govt. of {1872} Madras

REVENUE.

To

THE COURT OF WARDS.

Dated October 4th.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 4th October 1872, No. 1,384.

OCTOBER.

Nos. 34-35.

Avudiapuram Zemindari in Tinnevel District. — Collector authorized to attach and manage the estate as proposed by the Board Revenue.