No. 335. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 16th November 1871, No. 4,742:—

Read the following letters:—

From J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chittoor, 24th October 1871, No. 516.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the Proceedings of the Board, dated 4th ultimo, No. 3,798, regarding the private tank at Tirtham.

2. In his explanation Y. Alagasingari Naidu has, I think, most successfully refuted all aspersions on his character and motives in regard to this work.

3. The whole matter has, it will, I think, be now admitted, been raised into an importance, which it never at any stage deserved, and has been made the occasion of much harsh and vexatious interference.

Alagasingari Naidu has been put on his defence, and the Board have had before them the evidence by which he substantiates his explanation on each several point upon which his conduct has been called in question. Any observations therefore on my part are superfluous.

4. Tirtham, which has thus become famous, is a village near the confines of the Mysore territories. The population by last census was about 1,200, and the beriz from all sources Rs. 1,198-11-7. It has twelve tanks, of which three contain from three to six months' supply of water, and the others are mere ponds of small capacity. Tirtham was difficult of access until an approach was opened to it from the Byreddipalli main line in 1867-68. I have been frequently at Tirtham, and have personally inspected, I believe, most of the tanks around it as well as those that were serviceable, as those that were in a more or less ruinous condition. But I am unable to say which of the tanks under the latter category thus visited from time to time is the work which has been made the theme of so much correspondence during my absence.

5. When passing the orders* alluded to in paragraph 5 of Alagasingari Naidu's letter, I based them merely on the papers then before me, and do not recollect that the work regarding which I then gave instructions was identified in my mind with any thing that had come under my particular personal observation. On no occasion that I visited the place can I recall any proposition having been made or objection taken by the inhabitants in respect to the restoration of any ruined work in that neighbourhood. During one visit I certainly do recollect riding out to a spot some two miles distant from the village to see the remains of an old embankment. If this be the work, it is situated in a deep narrow glen and exhibited then the remains of a dam which had been thrown across it and had been carried away in years beyond the memory of any one in that part of the country. I do not remember that I had any specific object in visiting this spot, unless it was that it might possibly be worth restoring as a high level reservoir, and because it lay in the way of a cross country ride back to camp at Byreddipalli. I am not even now aware whether this is the work which has formed so prominent a subject of correspondence during my absence from the district.

* See translations in Appendix marked A.

6. I have investigated so many projects of the kind that I may be excused for having but a dim recollection of so insignificant a work as the one I now allude to.

7. As Alagasingari Naidu observes in paragraph 9 of his letter, Mr. E. Gibson was for several consecutive years constantly moving about the taluq, and in no portion of it was he probably more frequently than in the Tirtham neighbourhood. There is nothing, however, on record to show that representations of any one kind were ever made to him on the subject of this work. It had not then assumed the adventitious importance it acquired during the past year.

8. The water-supply of that taluq has been most precarious for a long series of years, and it is not unnatural to suppose that restorations of long abandoned works, which promised to mitigate this want, were often attempted or carried out without reference to the authorities or opposition from the inhabitants.

9. The Tahsildar lent himself to hunt up a grievance, and by his inconsistent† testimony (alluded to in paragraph 5 of Alagasingari Naidu's letter) raised up a whole host of injurious suspicions which have not been able to bear the light of fair and unprejudiced inquiry.

† Compare translation of Arzi in Appendix marked B.

10. I was personally acquainted with the late Kunjé Goudu for the last ten years. I saw a great deal of him when opening a road to, and otherwise improving the old cusbah of, the Palmanair Taluq, Cuddapanatham, close to which Kunjé Goudu lived.

11. He was also much associated with famine arrangements there and at Palmanair conducted under the personal direction of Mr. E. Gibson and myself.

12. During all that long acquaintance I never heard a whisper as to his levying black-mail as asserted by Mr. Whiteside, and from very distinct recollection can assert that both in his own neighbourhood and throughout the taluq he was looked up to as one of the representative men of his class, a popular landlord and farmer, and the best judge of cattle in that part of the country.

13. My own personal estimate of Kunjé Goudu was that he was one of the best specimens of the highland Yeoman I have met in the country. If my memory does not deceive me I pointed him out as such to Lord Napier when at Palmanair, and told His Lordship at the time that the more remote family antecedents would not perhaps bear closer examination than would do those of many a good Scotch family on the border.

14. Mr. Whiteside's hearsay statements are entitled to no more consideration than they would receive in a Court of law, and rest on no evidence either oral or documentary that I have been able to discover.

The Criminal records of the Sessions Court here between 1850 and 1859 (the year of my appointment to the district) have been searched through, and in none of the cases of dacoity or robbery committed for trial during that period does Kunjé Goudu's name appear.

As regards the steps taken to prevent the re-construction of the tank, I find that the new work was swept away by a flood before it was finished, and though it is highly improbable that an undertaking so fraught with disaster will ever again tempt speculation, orders will be issued interdicting its restoration.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
26th January 1872.

P.S.—A reference was made to the Palmanair Tahsildar in regard to Kunjé Goudu's connection with the Satghur dacoity case alluded to in paragraph 9 of Mr. Whiteside's letter; but as no answer has been received, I have determined not to delay further the submission of this report on that account.

The Gudiathum Tahsildar in answer to a similar reference has reported that there is nothing against Kunjé Goudu on his records, and Satghur is in that taluq.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Order to Tahsildar of Palmanair Taluq.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.—Arzi from Tahsildar to Collector.

From the same officer, dated Paradarami, 28th October 1871, No. 520.

ADVERTING to the *Post Scriptum* of my letter to the Board of Revenue under date the 24th instant, No. 516, I have the honour to submit, for their information, translation of an Arzi since received from the Tahsildar of Palmanair Taluq regarding the allegation that Kunjé Goudu was implicated in the dacoity which took place in the Satghur neighbourhood.

2. The Board will thus see that, so far as the records of the district show, there is nothing to justify the term dacoit and ex-dacoit applied to him in Mr. Whiteside's letters.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Arzi.

THESE letters will be submitted to Government with reference to their Order No. 1,119, dated 28th June 1871, together with a copy of the Board's Proceedings No. 3,798, dated 4th September 1871.

2. The Board are inclined to agree with Mr. Robinson in his estimate of the case referred to under the explanations now offered.

No. 336. ORDER THEREON, 26th January 1871, No. 168.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government concur with the Board in accepting the Deputy-Collector Alagasingari Naidu's explanation as satisfactory.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

B.S.L.

20th.
16. Ed. 6.

In nomine

Be it known that I
Nicholas Espinett of the
Pish. of Bodmin in the
County of Cornwall Esquire
and Thomas Hawkins
of the Pish. of Lanteglos
in the said County
Esquire and Richard

Before the Court of Exchequer.

Pike a 2d. Report of 8 May last. Mr. Whitelide submitted certain papers found among those of the deceased Mr. Lascelles which happened to be handed after his death to Mr. Le Grand and established his character as such. as both as the Executor in trust as those entitled over the whole residuary interest including the present Wold.

Return to Mr. Lascelles that there was nothing in them that could be called for this in existence

The supposed Widow as to the deceased having been "in lawfully connected with

Court of Exchequer. Thursday. Nov. that person in possession as Bengarsh village in the Hill Pattamar the Darkmoor pass, & from local influence & connexion established a good information as to the Bride of the Robber. & so learn for cause in fixed that part of the county. It is better to trust to wisdom & wisdom that he may have had communication with them. Return sent to proof of this.

W. Robinson

No. 20. of 18 Nov.

states that he knew him
for some 10 years before
his death. that he never
heard a whisper of his
keeping bad characters as
asserted by Mr. Whitelock -
that he was looked upon
throughout the talook as
a popular landlord & farmer
& that the criminal records
of the Sessions Ct. have been
searched for the 10 years
preceding Mr. Robinson's
appt. to the district without
finding anything to implicate
the [illegible] in any dacoity or
robbery case. and that in
fact there is nothing on
record to justify the terms
of dacoit applied to him
by Mr. Whitelock
As regards the bund

across the stream. it
does seem that there
in probability was an
unsuccessful attempt
to obtain a free passage
by boats of the same kind
but that at any rate
it was not a matter
of the importance Mr.
Whitelock assigned
to it. that the stream
was one of several
feeders of the [illegible]
tank and that the
bund was not injured
by those [illegible]
[illegible] the
lower tank as calculated
to injure them.
That it was constructed
without permission of the

collective time clear. but
this irregular. is not
a crime of very great
importance.

The Prest. has think
proper to direct him self from
Comment in the matter.
His correspondence with
the "Federal" appears
to the respectfully submit-
ted.

The Packet for the Land
under the Pond Co. brought
accepted by him with the
Public Money during his absence
as Cash.

That in giving preliminary
approval to the project, he
cautioned against permitting
the impression to the public mind
and that the present Act
Do confirmed the work

upon W. Florida, had
imported by the means
unfavorably of the
U.S. Collectors in Ky.
& positively denies that
was misrepresentation
obligations of the Collector
or the Surveyor Gen.
in the Land. and that
to divide the contra
addressed by W. Florida
the point that the
circumstances of the case
in all respects the
supposition of this being
from misunderstandings
complaints & facilitate
an improper proceeding

The Pr. read the
Declaration as

satisfactory. and adopt
Mr. Robinson's views of the
case as regards the
Bund.

Mr. Pilkington's
Evidence transmitted
herewith. The Case
entirely dealt with by the
very lastly. containing
imputations Mr. Grant
unwarranted by the facts.

Requesting orders on
the case as affecting
the character of the Dt
Collector.

Also as regards the Cheek
from Brookes Place
supplied the Honorary Pa
bilaps in the Calendar
was made.

Mr. White Kidd
may. more two,
have made more
of the matter
than its merited.
Yet it is beyond
doubt that when
he was asked
to cancel the
mark - it had
been in progress
for three years
was nearly. if not
Quite complete!
- to the effect of

the new mark on
the old mark. Mr
White Kidd declares
that a certain
number of objects
that he (the Inspector)
had been painted
every year since the
new mark was com-
menced -

Mr. Robinson's
Statement seems to
me very unlikely.
think - he has
not even taken
the trouble to
visiting the Tank
and has passed a
further criticism upon

taken. to keep off
Land taken and
Country. in 1865.
The Inspector Mr. Jenn
Land has furnished
criminally by Mr. Pilkington
in connection. to the
Bund" case.

After the Colonel
Land Kidd a Sketch
that must have surprised
the people very much.

V.B.

27.12.71.

3.

The Bridge has been
carried away &
not to be rebuilt -
the there being a
decision of the Supreme
Court & the Supreme
officials have all
& have been paid
& that no thing re-
mains for Pet. to
do - beyond Expending
the Deb H.Co

I would not
Express any Opin
of the correctness
of the Pet: thing or
the Contentions in
-cluded

L.P.S

I agree in his Conclusion
view of this matter

R.T.

Taney

No 735-336

Revenue 1871. Depart.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 16TH NOVEMBER 1871, No. 4,742.

Dept 29 Nov. 71

Encl. 4

Received. 30th

NOVEMBER.

No. 4,742.

Private tank at Tirtham—in Palmanair Taluq, North Arcot District,—Letters from Collector reporting what occurred with reference to, when Deputy Collector Alagasingary Naidoo of Tanjore District was Tahsildar of Palmanair and accepted durkhast for certain land in bed of tank, stating that order will be issued interdicting restoration of tank, and forwarding information regarding late Kurja Goudu with whom Alagasingary Naidu is said to have been intimate, submitted to Government.

No 335

Collr 72 R 15th

28 June — — 305-309

5 August — — 37-38

Pp 168.

Statement B in accepting the D.C. Alagasingara Naidu's explanation as satisfactory

26 Jany 72.

H. Board of Revr Dept 29 Jany 72