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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 2,401.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COURT OF WARDS, dated 24th November 1873.

Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 23rd August 1873, No. 898, Revenue Department :—

Read Proceedings of the Court of Wards, dated 3rd July 1873, No. 1,168.

Order thereon, 23rd August 1873, No. 898.

Miscellaneous.

IN Fasli 1281 (1871-72) the Court of Wards had under its guardianship twenty-seven proprietors and under its management thirty estates. No estates were made over to their proprietors, but three were taken under management. These have added largely to the Court's responsibilities, as two of them stand, in point of wealth, second and third in the list of properties under its control.

2. The gross demand (arrears and current) was Rupees 19,38,712, of which Rupees 12,80,582* were collected or remitted during the fasli, leaving a balance of Rupees 6,59,130, or more than one-third of the demand.

*NOTE.—Erroneously given in the statement in paragraph 3 of the Court's report as 12,82,202 owing to the total collections in Ettiapuram having been entered as 2,85,398 in place of 2,83,778.

For this heavy balance the Court is not wholly responsible, as the old (reputed) outstandings of the three newly-assumed estates reached no less a sum than Rupees 3,96,963. It is, however, observed that, deducting this amount and excluding these estates, the remaining balance is larger than that of last year for the same properties. The collections in those noted in the margin were anything but satisfactory.

	RS.
Fasli 1280	2,55,107
,, 1281	2,61,167

Barwah, Rewada, Salur, Kessanakurru, and Irungadukotta *cum* Lattur.

3. GANJAM.—The three estates in this district continue to reflect credit on their management, though it would have been better if the activity shown in Barwah in making the collections after the close of the fasli had been shown at an earlier date.

Purla Kimedy.—The Government notice that the money decreed to the Zemindar's brother has been paid in full.

The Court's remarks on the roads (in paragraph 14) are not quite clear. If two roads have been made in the estate out of Local Funds, the statement that the construction of roads has been "in every direction from its own funds" must, at all events, require modification. It rests with the Court to make through their Agent any representation to the Local Fund Board that they think necessary in the interests of their ward.

It is so far satisfactory to learn that the forest operations were carried on at a profit but direct revenue not being the sole object in view. Some information as to the measures taken to conserve the forests with regard to the requirements of future generations and the protection of the water supply would not have been out of place.

The Government hope that the Court may find in the tutor whom they have at length secured for their ward those requisites for which they were so long seeking, and they presume that his services are not to be confined to the elder son.

Barwah.—It is to be regretted that the Collector has throughout acted with so little vigour as regards the education of the several boys in this family, though the plenitude of his powers was pointed out to him by Government in their review* of the Court's report for Fasli 1279.

* *Vide* paragraph 8, G. O., No. 1,069, dated 16th June 1871.

4. VIZAGAPATAM.—There are three estates in this district. In Rewada the collections were but little in excess of half the current demand. There is said to have been a succession of bad seasons, and there is some suspicion that the rates of assessment are too high. Steps should at once be taken for realizing or otherwise disposing of the debts due to this and Meringhi. The condition of Salur is unsatisfactory. Heavy arrears have accumulated, and but little progress is made in the removal of its load of debt.

5. GODAVERY.—The estates under ward in this district are the property of two widows, both minors. The interest taken by them in their education has frequently been noticed, and appears to be still maintained.

Kapileswarapuram cum *Kessanakurru.*—The outlay in these estates on public works was considerable. The estates, however, are reported to have ample funds, and, such being the case, it is a matter for surprise that the Collector should have needed to have had pointed out to him the propriety of paying their liabilities, on which it would further appear that the interest was being allowed to accumulate.

6. NELLORE.—The *Chundi* Estate is the only one under the Court in this district. The expenditure exceeded the income by Rupees 3,471. The Court explain this to have arisen from the payment of arrears that accrued during the life-time of the late Zemindar. The establishment charges, though less than in the previous fasli, seem out of proportion to the requirements of the estate.

7. CHINGLEPUT.—The Court's ward here has two small estates in which the collections were very backward, though, strange to say, the seasons are said to have been favourable. The minor, whose attainments and conduct were well spoken of two years ago, has not since then given satisfaction in either respect.

8. NORTH ARCOT.—In this district the large estate of Arni was added to the two properties already under the Court. It came, however, too late into their hands to admit of much being done for it. The reputed arrears reached the large sum of Rupees 2,35,770, and this has since been swelled by the current balance to Rupees 2,66,886.

Irrigation works have, under the late régime, been starved that funds for unproductive works might be forthcoming; and there is a general need of a vigorous and efficient management to set matters right before the estate is handed over to its proprietor.

The condition of the Naragunti Estate does not seem to require comment. The Kallur Estate has now passed to its owner, and the Court speak with disappointment of their management. The sum collected in Fasli 1281 was, however, in excess of the current demand, and the arrears appear to have been chiefly of a time antecedent to the three years of the Court's management.

9. TANJORE.—*Nonakad Tenpadi, Agraharam, Agharayarayangudi.*—Three years ago it was reported that all these little properties were heavily involved. The first is now free of debt; the liabilities of the third are reduced from Rs. 15,892 to Rupees 8,875; but the position of the second is much what it was in Fasli 1279.

The Government notice that on investigation the recovery of Rupees 1,766 due to the Nonakad Tenpadi Estate was found to be barred by the Law of Limitation, and they are constrained to remark that had a proper scrutiny been made into the standing of these debts at an earlier stage of the Court's management, and proper measures been taken for their recovery, this complete loss to the property could not have occurred.

Shealli.—This estate came under the Court in Fasli 1280 with large sums due to it. By the close of Fasli 1281 Rupees 1,946 had been recovered; Rs. 11,986 had been written off as irrecoverable; and the large balance of Rupees 57,406 was still outstanding. Of this part is said to be still under an investigation, which should be vigorously prosecuted lest it have the same untoward results as in the case just noted.

10. TRICHINOPOLY—*Peramur.*—The Government are concerned to notice the fluctuations* of the yearly demand in this estate. Reaching in Fasli 1279 the sum of Rupees 14,288, it sunk in the fasli under review to Rupees 7,344. This result is attributed to a combination among those who bid for the farms and to a fall in prices. The latter was far too slight to have had much effect, and measures should be taken to prevent a recurrence of the former. Here also the realization of outstandings has been most perfunctory.

	RS.
* Fasli 1278	9,024
,, 1279	14,288
,, 1280	11,791
,, 1281	7,344

11. MADURA.—In this district the large estates of Bodinaikanur and Guntamanaikanur have been for several years under the Court's management with very successful financial results. The collections during the fasli were backward, but after its close were successfully expedited, and there are now large cash balances awaiting investment.

Sandiyur was taken over during the fasli, and its management promises to be as satisfactory as has been that of the estates last mentioned. The proprietrix is a widow advanced in years.

12. TINNEVELLY—*Maniachi.*—This estate has, it appears, suffered a further dismemberment owing to a portion having been made over to a cousin of the proprietor in conformity with a decree of the High Court. Considering that the estate has been under the management of the Court since 1866 (Fasli 1275-76), it is strange that, of arrears to so large a sum as Rupees 13,849, they should only now be able to say that they were of doubtful existence and must be written off as irrecoverable.

The Government have recently heard with regret of the death of the minor, who has been succeeded by his younger and only surviving brother.

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Singampatti.—This estate is now out of debt, and it has again been found possible to spare a large sum for expenditure on works of irrigation. The outlay in the previous year under this head produced good results in a decrease of remissions on wet lands. The report as to the minor's attainments is highly unsatisfactory, and the Court must see that every effort is made during the next five years to make up the deficiencies of the past.

For the second time it is reported, without remark, that the forest revenue has increased. The remarks made above as to the Purla Kimedy Forests might here be justly repeated but that the subject has been before the Government in another form and sanction been accorded for renting the forests of this estate with a view to conserve the water supply.

Urkad.—No time should be lost in proceeding for the recovery of the debts due to this estate.

Ettiapuram.—This property is the second largest under the Court's control, and was only formally taken over on the 1st of January 1872. The results shown are, the Government consider, very creditable to Deputy-Collector Venkat Rao. The amount of arrears that have been written off is very large, but viewed in the light of the Collector's report marginally noted, where many of the arrears are styled "fictitious," this measure seems to have been inevitable. In public works, sanitation, education, etc., there is ample scope for an administration which, under Mr. Puckle's supervision, will doubtless be as vigorous as the occasion demands. The Government desire in the report for Fasli 1282 to have some account of the minor's attainments and the measures taken to advance them.

Dated 16th January 1872, in G. O, No. 1,008, dated 28th June 1872.

13. Coimbatore and Malabar.—There is nothing in the condition of the small properties in these districts that demands comment.

14. The general impression left by a perusal of this report is that many of the Court's Agents hesitate to undertake the details of the work which the care of these estates imposes on them. The current business is done creditably, but the account work connected does not seem to receive the attention it requires. The investigation into claims made in behalf of, or brought against, these estates demands a close scrutiny which cannot fail to be irksome, but which, nevertheless, must be undertaken if the responsibilities which by law devolve upon the Court are to be properly discharged.

15. While thus urging the necessity of a closer attention to the pecuniary interests of the incapacitated proprietors the Government would also impress on the Court and its Agents the paramount importance of securing for the minors that judicious early training and superior instruction which alone can qualify them hereafter to administer their affairs with intelligence and, amidst the general progress, fill with credit their high position. The views of Government on this matter were fully expressed in paragraph 16 of G. O., No. 1,324, dated 25th August 1870, to which attention is again directed.

16. The Government regret to be compelled to animadvert upon the great delay that occurred in the submission of this report, and are unable to accept as sufficient the reason assigned.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. STURROCK,
Acting Under Secretary,
for *Acting Secretary to Government.*

Communicated to the several Collectors concerned for their information and guidance.

2. *Clause* 2, *Paragraph* 2.—Government notice with dissatisfaction the tardy collection of revenue in the five estates marginally noted. The Court observe that in the first and the last the revenue has been, since the close of the fasli, almost fully collected, and that in the other three estates the slow progress was due to exceptional causes which have been fully explained in the Court's annual report. The Collectors concerned will, however, be requested to see that, in future, collections are made within the fasli, excepting in the individual cases in which it may be necessary to recommend the arrears to be written off.

Barwah...	Ganjam.
Rewada.	Vizagapatam.
Salur.	Vizagapatam.
Kessanakurru	Godavery.
Irungadukotta *cum* Lattur.	Chinglepat.

3. *Clause* 4, *Paragraph* 3.—Referring to Clause 4, Paragraph 3, the Collector of Ganjam is requested to notice in detail in his annual report for Fasli 1282 the measures taken for the conservancy of forests.

4. *Clause* 5, *Paragraph* 3.—Only the elder son is now under instruction The younger [illegible] old, and, when he is fit to read under [illegible] gentleman's services will be utilized.

5. *Clause* 6, *Paragraph* 3.—The Barwah minor has but two years of his minority before him, and the Court desire the Collector of Ganjam to adopt vigorous measures for his proper education.

6. *Paragraph* 4.—The Collector of Vizagapatam has already been desired to take early steps for the collection of the debts due to Rewada and Meringhi, and his attention will again be drawn to the subject.

7. *Paragraph* 4.—The debts due by Salur are payable on prescribed dates and at specified intervals under bonds executed by the late Zemindar, the amounts of the bonds being inclusive of the interest payable up to the due dates. For obvious reasons the Court have directed that no payments be made before the due dates, except in cases where the creditors are willing to forego the interest for the anticipated period.

Court's Proceedings, dated 31st May 1871, No. 2,210.

8. *Paragraph* 6.—The annual cost of the establishment entertained for the management of the Chundi Estate is only Rupees 3,316, or about 6·9 per cent. of the annual revenue, which for the current fasli is estimated at Rupees 51,748. The establishment charges for Fasli 1281, referred to by Government, were, however, heavy as they included payments on account of arrears of salary which accrued under the late Zemindar's administration.

9. *Clause* 1, *Paragraph* 9.—Agraharam is a small estate consisting of ryotwari lands, and has but a limited income, which does not admit of much being done for clearing the heavy debts with which the estate is encumbered. The Court accordingly resolved on selling a portion of the lands and raising the necessary funds, but this has been unavoidably postponed, as, owing to rumours propagated discrediting the Court's competency to effect a sale, they have not been able to obtain fair offers for the lands. The subject, however, engages the attention of the Court.

10. *Clause* 2, *Paragraph* 9.—In regard to the debts due to the Nonakad Tenpadi Estate, which have had to be written off, the Court beg to observe that the causes of action in regard to them arose during the life-time of the late proprietor, and that the statutory period for their recovery had run out before the Court took up the management of the estate.

11. *Clause* 3, *Paragraph* 9.—The attention of the Collector of Tanjore is drawn to the remarks of Government regarding the debts due to Shealli, now under investigation, and he is requested to settle them as early as practicable.

12. *Paragraph* 10.—The circumstances under which comparatively low rents were accepted for the lands of the Peramur Estate are explained in the paper marginally noted. The term of the rental expired with the last fasli, and the Collector will now be called upon to report what steps he has taken to ensure a fair rent for the future, and with what result.

Court's Proceedings, dated 27th July 1871, No. 3,146.

13. *Clause* 3, *Paragraph* 12.—The Singampatti minor has recently been removed to Palamcottah to keep him away from the influence of evil associates, and the Court hope that better results will follow this arrangement.

14. *Paragraph* 13.—Referring to the records of Government regarding the collection of debts due to the Urkad minors, the Collector of Tinnevelly is requested to report what measures have been adopted by him in furtherance of the instructions of the Court on the same subject, contained in paragraph 23 of their Proceedings, dated 31st January 1873, No. 131.

15. *Clause* 6, *Paragraph* 12.—Mr. Puckle is desired to report in detail in his annual report for Fasli 1282 the attainments of the Ettiapuram minor and the measures taken to advance them.

16. *Paragraph* 14.—Adverting to the remarks of Government in paragraph 14, Collectors in charge of estates of incapacitated proprietors are requested to devote special attention to the collection of debts due to the wards so that no loss may occur from the operation of the Statute of Limitations.

Payment of debts due by estates should also be kept steadily in view and every effort made to wipe off liabilities.

17. *Paragraph* 15.—The importance of securing a proper education for the wards has been repeatedly remarked on by Government, and the Court are not less sensible of it. As suggested by Government in paragraph 16 of their Order, dated 25th August 1870, No. 1,324, the wards are in all practicable cases sent to the nearest Government school, and, where the resources of their estates permit it, they are also provided with special tutors. But it must be confessed that the results attained are generally anything but satisfactory. The period of minority, which under the present law expires with the eighteenth year, is too limited to admit of much being done, and the efforts made are constantly thwarted by the ignorant scruples of relatives; but the Court assure Government that the arrangements made for the education of their wards are always most anxiously considered. The particular attention of the Collectors is requested to the remarks of Government on the subject.

18. *Paragraph* 16.—To avoid the delay in the submission of the general report, animadverted on by Government, Collectors are requested to send their reports for Fasli 1282 as early as practicable. Reports from only two districts have as yet reached this office notwithstanding that it is now more than three months since the close of the fasli.

Godavery and Coimbatore.

(A true Extract.)

Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
,, the Collector of Ganjam.
,, the do. of Vizagapatam.
,, the do. of the Godavery District.
,, the do. of Nellore.
,, the do. of Chingleput.
,, the do. of North Arcot.
,, the do. of Tanjore.
,, the do. of Trichinopoly.
,, the do. of [illegible].
,, the do. of Tinnevelly.
,, the do. of Coimbatore.
,, the do. of Malabar.

Exd. A. S. Rodgers.

Rev. & J. Dept
No. 3934

1873.

Court of Wards,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 24TH NOVEMBER 1873, No. 2,401.

Dup.d 9 Dec/73

Encl.

Received 10th Dec

NOVEMBER.

No. 2,401.

Estates—under management of Court of Wards.—Orders of Government on Board's report on administration of — for Fasli 1281, communicated to Collectors concerned with certain instructions. Remarks submitted to Government on certain points noticed by them in their review.

No 116

Recorded

18: Dec/73

Dr. Gillan, dtd 19 Dec/73

C 13 Dec/73 R 18