

No. 267. Read the following Proceedings of the Court of Wards, dated 26th September 1873, No. 1,950 :—

Read the following letter from W. S. FOSTER, Esq., Acting Collector of the Godavery District, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Court of Wards, dated Cocanada, 11th August 1873, No. 253 :—

I HAVE the honour to report on Court's petition No. 2,932 of 1872, presented by Kamma Seshamma, mother and guardian of the minor proprietrix of the Kapileswarapuram and Kesanakurru Estates—

(1.) The petitioner complains that the demand of the Kesanakurru Estate has fallen off to the extent of Rs. 6,000 since the estate came under the management of the Court.

(2.) She objects to renting out the land annually.

(3.) She prays that some one of the minor's relations may be appointed Manager, as the loss arose, she says, from a stranger's appointment.

(4.) She requests that the embankment may be repaired.

2. I have called for a report from the Sub-Collector, in whose jurisdiction the estate is situate, and I beg to enclose copy of his letter, dated the 1st July 1873, No. 225. I have corrected the statement he sent, and herewith send the revised one.

3. In faslis 1277 and 1278 the estate was under its owner's management, and in faslis 1279 to 1282 it has been under the Court. The figures of faslis 1277 and 1278 have been obtained from private information. It will be seen that there is a gradual falling off in the demand from year to year, and a large decrease of Rs. 6,000 in collections in the current fasli, chiefly owing to the non-repair of the embankment and the consequent impoverished condition of the ryots. Some remissions were found absolutely necessary by the settling officer, and were granted by him during the current year, as there has been much damage done to crops by excess of water. The Court have sanctioned the remission of Rupees 1,277-2-6.

Vide Court's Proceedings, dated 11th June 1873, Miscellaneous No. 3,538.

4. If the figures of faslis 1277 and 1278 are to be relied upon (the demand or the collections must be wrong, as the balance does not agree with the arrears outstanding against the estate when the estate came under management), the collections appear to have been unsatisfactory, as about one-third of the demand was in arrears. It was not unusual for the late proprietor to demand in his accounts more assessment than could be properly demanded, and this may partly account for the large figure under demand in faslis 1277 and 1278. There is enough to show that the proprietor had done this.

5. Though the demand in the years before the management is apparently larger than in the succeeding years, it must not be forgotten that Rupees 7,196-3-7 had to be written off, as they could not be collected, and as it appeared that the amount had not been collected by the

Vide Court's Proceedings, 7th January 1873, No. 14.

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proprietor, because the non-repair of the embankment put the ryots to loss. This

	Fasli 1277.			Fasli 1278.		
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
Demand ...	18,131	7	11	17,954	4	5
Remission...	3,275	2	4	3,921	1	3
	14,856	5	7	14,033	3	2

	Demand.			Demand.		
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
1279 ...	...	...	...	16,564	1	2
1280 ...	...	...	...	16,213	12	3
1281 ...	...	...	...	15,759	3	11
1282 ...	...	...	...	15,194	4	6

remission reduces the demand to almost what it is in the subsequent years; the apparent increase in these faslis being the result of the proprietor's home-farm lands having been rented out. This would also chiefly account for the increase in the collections from faslis 1279 to 1281.

6. Under these circumstances, I cannot think that there is any ground for complaint.

7. Next, the petitioner proposes to rent out the lands of the estate for more than one year. This is inadmissible under Standing Order No. 97, and is not also desirable.

8. There is no reason to suppose that the loss arose from the appointment of the present Manager.

9. The subject of repairing the river-embankment has already formed the subject of a large correspondence, and has engaged attention.

10. I return the petition under report.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From E. L. PEARSE, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, to W. S. FOSTER, Esq., Acting Collector of the Godavery District, dated Rajahmundry, 1st July 1873, No. 225.

With reference to your letter, No. 76, dated 20th March last, I have the honour to state that the Board petition No. 2,932 of 1872 (herewith returned) therewith received, has been acknowledged by Kamma Seshamma, guardian of the minor proprietrix of the estates of Kesanakurru and Kapileswarapuram, to have been submitted by her.

1. Petitioner complains that the demand of the Kesanakurru estate, since it was placed under the management of the Court of Wards, has fallen short of that in the days of the late proprietor by Rupees 6,000.

A statement showing the demand and collection of the estate for fasli 1279, in which the late proprietor died, and for two previous and two subsequent faslis is sent herewith. From this, it will be seen that there is not a decrease in the demand of so large an amount as Rupees 6,000 as alleged by petitioner, but only a decrease of Rupees 1,187; the amount of demand fixed by the late proprietor for fasli 1279 being Rupees 16,564 and that settled by the Collector for the last fasli (1281) Rupees 15,377, owing to the non-repair of the Godavery embankment, which protects especially the lands of Tillakuppa and Kesanakurru, and the destitute condition of the ryots of those two villages. The same statement also shows that there is no falling off in the collections, but even an increase.

2. Petitioner objects to the renting out of the lands of the estate on leases for one year, and suggests the introduction of the system of rents for more than one year. Ryotwar system has been adopted as directed in Board's orders, (vide Section 97, Dalryell's Edition of Board's Standing Orders).

3. Petitioner declares that the alleged loss of Rupees 6,000 was occasioned by the appointment of a stranger as Manager, and requests that the maternal uncle of the minor, who

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is the brother of the petitioner, may either be appointed Manager, or allowed to attend to the affairs of the Manager, and to assist him.

As shown above, no loss has resulted to the estate. Further, it is the settlement officer that enhances or reduces the assessment, and grants remissions. The Manager acts under the orders of the Sub-Collector, and uses no independent authority. There is, therefore, no room for petitioner to blame the Manager.

I see no reason for removing the present Manager, even though petitioner's brother be fit for the post. The kinship is certainly not a necessary qualification, perhaps rather far from being a qualification at all.

4. Petitioner prays that the embankment, which protects the estate, may be completely repaired.

The subject of repairs to the embankment has already been brought to the notice of the Court.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. S. FOSTER,
Acting Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.—Statement.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.—Petition.

The Board resolve to submit the above petition to Government, with the following remarks.

2. The ruin of the estate is clearly traceable to the neglect of the river-embankments and the consequent impoverishment of the ryots.

3. The actual collections of the estate are returned in fasli 1279 at Rs. 15,138 (in addition to Rs. 740 collected since, 100 still outstanding, and 600 remitted). In fasli 1282 they were Rs. 8,899 (in addition to Rs. 3,618 remitted and 2,676 outstanding).

4. A long correspondence has passed as to the repairs of the embankments.

* 27th January 1873, No. 254.

In their* Proceedings, Public Works Department, the Government directed the District Engineer, Godavery, to ascertain at once what can be done for the protection of Polaveram and at what cost, and to submit plans and estimates. In that order, Government also desired the Board to supply them with information which might enable Government to decide from what funds the cost of the work should be met. This was supplied by the Board in their Proceedings, dated 2nd August 1873, No. 1,474.

5. Rupees 10,450 was provided in the budget of the estate for fasli 1283.

6. In continuation of the Court's Proceedings last quoted, and those of 24th January 1873, No. 96, the enclosed petition is submitted to Government.

c24 Oct 748 R25 Oct 748

Govt. of 1873 Madras
REVENUE.

To
THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
&c. &c. &c.

Dated October 27th.

Recd.

G. O., 27th October 1873, No. 1,184.

OCTOBER.
Nos. 267-268.

*Kopileswarapuram and Kesanakurru Estates
in Godavary District.—Communicating to the
Public Works Department Proceedings Court of
Wards respecting the neglect of the river-embank-
ments of the — in view to the issue of orders for
the construction of the necessary protective works.*

Ver 3995/73