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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Rev DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
B.P. No.

55

Press
Mis.

Dated

11-9-1873

196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 151. Read the following letter from R. J. MELVILLE, Esq., Acting Agent to the Governor of Fort St. George in Vizagapatam, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Vizagapatam, 21st May 1873, No. 228:—

I have the honour to forward the annual report on the Maliahs of this district. The Maliahs within their respective divisions were visited by the Principal and Senior Assistants, whose reports accompany my own.

2. I started from Parvatipore towards the end of November and went by the Latchmipuram valley to Gunupur, where I halted for a day or two, and then went up the valley of the Vamsadhara to Godairy; both here and at Gunupur the damage caused by the floods in June were very apparent. The bungalow and sheds which used to be found very useful had entirely disappeared, and a sandy spot in bed of the river was pointed out to me as the site of what six months before had been a considerable village. From Godairy I crossed into the Rayagada valley to Bissemcotta *via* Karlaghati. At all these camps I had up the Khonds, many of whom had been engaged in last year's disturbances. The fate of their leader, Gundra Maji, who is now in jail, seemed to have impressed them, and they were profuse in their promises never to offend again. The season in this part of the country had been a most favourable one. An old ryot in a village near Godairy admitted to me that he had not seen such crops for sixty years. Such of the crop as was cut was slightly injured by untimely rain which fell in the beginning of December, but the bulk of the crop was safely harvested.

3. At Bissemcotta I saw the *tat* Rajah, and then went on to Rayagada, where I made a halt. I would again call attention to urgent want of a Cutcherry at this station. The Treasury and office records are still housed as described in my tour report of 1870-71, and are at the mercy of any fire in the village. I returned from Rayagada to Parvatipore, and on January 2nd started from Salur for Jeypore *via* the new ghaut. I was met at Tadivalasa, the foot, by Mr. Turner, and we went up the ghaut to Pottinghi. As the ghaut has by this time been reported on professionally, I will not refer to it except to say that, to my judgment, it seemed quite practicable for bandies.

4. After a halt of a few days at Korapat, where I inspected the new house being built for the Special Assistant, we went to Jeypore. While there I received and paid visits to the Maharajah, who had lately returned from the Godavery District. This is the first time he has got so far from home, and I told him that I hoped he would in future go about more and see other countries besides his own.

5. From Jeypore we went *via* Ramghiri to Malkhanghiri. The Amin appointed to carry out the settlement made last year by Mr. Turner and the Diwan of the Rajah we found to be entirely unfitted for the post. He had neither the energy nor the firmness required to put down an opposition which has to be met with on the introduction of any innovation. He has since been removed, and a better man employed in his place. We found on entering Malkhangiri that one Mukunda Naik, an influential Paik, had been attempting to prejudice the people against the new settlement, and had persuaded the heads of four or five villages to accompany him to Jeypore. They got nothing by their journey, as the Maharajah very properly referred them to the Assistant Agent. I have since ordered this

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man, who is inclined to make himself troublesome, to reside at Bissemcotta, in the northern part of the Zemindary, till further orders.

6. From Malkhanghiri we went three marches towards Moat before striking across the taluq to the Sileru, which I did at a point four miles south of Konda Khamberu. At this village we halted for two days, and then went by a jungle path from Mundai to Rudrakota in Hill Madagole. The ghaut from the low country to the uplands is short but steep at Rudrakota. Mr. Turner and I parted company, and I returned to the low country by the Madagole Ghaut.

7. The expenses of the tour, in 1872-73, is Rupees 558-8-4 as per memorandum D. Sanction is requested for the amount.

From A. CRUICKSHANK, Esq., Principal Assistant Agent to the Governor of Fort St. George in Vizagapatam, to J. R. DANIEL, Esq., Acting Agent to the Governor of Fort St. George in Vizagapatam, dated Ankapilly, April 1873, No. 109.

I have the honour to inform you that, in accordance with the Order of Government dated the 24th December 1868, I visited the Gudem Hills last month.

2. On the morning of the 11th March I left Nursapatam and went to Kondasanta. There is a road being made by the Department of Public Works from Nursapatam to Kondasanta and four miles have been completed. There are still four or five miles to make.

3. On the morning of the 12th I went up the ghaut to Lammasingi, and here I was obliged to halt a day; for about two miles from Kondasanta the ghaut is very steep and rocky, and it was so late in the afternoon before the elephant came up that the other could not be sent on that day. I went through this village unaccompanied by any one, so that the people might not be afraid to make any complaint they might have to make, and asked the villagers if they had any complaint to make against any one, and they said they had none. Afterwards I saw the paddalu, or headman, who said he had no complaints to make.

4. On the 14th I marched to Lotugadda, a small village, and the villagers there when asked said they had no complaints to make. The following morning after I had proceeded a short distance from camp, one Serrabandora, the sub-renter of the village, came up and said he had a complaint to make. So I told him to say what he had to say. He then said that, during the time he was in the Rajahmundry Jail (it appeared from what he said that he had been sentenced to three years' imprisonment for attempting to hush up a murder), his elder brother and the present Munsif of the village extorted 30 Rupees from one of his ryots, and the ryot had run away into Madagole. He admitted that the present Munsif was one of the witnesses against him in the case in which he was punished. As all he knew was hearsay, I told him to produce the ryot either at Antarla or at Gudem. He said he would produce him at Nursapatam and left. I sent my camp straight from Lotugadda to Antarla, but I went round by Jerla, where I saw the paddalu and the villagers who had no complaints to make. I passed several other villages on my way. At Antarla I saw two doras, one of whom had a complaint to make that one of his villages had been taken possession of by another dora, but all I could do was to tell him to bring a suit to recover possession.

5. On the 17th I went to Gudem. Mottadam Sunyasi dora of Kottavidi, met me about four or five miles from Gudem. When I went out in the evening I saw Veeriah dora of Patavidi, and on asking him if all was going on right, he said he had a complaint to make against Sunyasi dora. His complaint was that Sunyasi dora did not give him a share of the produce of certain paddy-fields which he alleged belonged to both. I told him to come in the forenoon of the next day when I would have Sunyasi dora present and would hear both sides. When I had up both parties I found that the land had been brought under cultivation some considerable time before, and that Veeriah dora had never enjoyed any of it (this he himself admitted). Sunyasi dora contended that all the land was within his boundaries, while Veeriah dora denied that it was. Veeriah dora said little or nothing himself. It was his younger brother who said all. I requested Veeriah dora's younger

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brother to point out the boundaries of his village, but he admitted his inability to do so, and he then referred to another man who accompanied him and was a relation and seemed to be advising him, and he also declared he was unable to do so. Sunyasi dora then complained that Veeriah dora had turned off the water that flowed to the land in dispute. The land is watered from a stream which passes near the village of Veeriah dora, who, as he could not succeed in prevailing on Sunyasi dora to give him a share of the produce, determined that Sunyasi dora should have no more produce. Accordingly, eight or nine days before I went he had made an embankment and turned off the water so that none could flow to the land in dispute. He admitted he had done so because no share was given him. So I ordered him to remove the embankment (I myself saw it removed) and put matters as they were, and told him, if he thought that he had a right to a share of the produce of the land pointed out by him and that he could prove it, he must establish his claim by a civil suit. Sunyasi dora made another complaint against him that he would not pay him money that had been borrowed by his father. I told him if he would not pay up his only remedy was to sue him.

6. On the 19th I went to Darakonda, and here I had no complaints. On the morning of the 20th I went as far as the Sileru, nine or ten miles, the boundary between my division and Jeypore. Close to the river is a village of three or four houses called Isakaravupilli; there I could find no one who had any complaint to make.

7. On the 21st I left Darakonda and went to Guditeru, rather a long march, but there were no ghauts, and the road was very good nearly the whole way. I was met by the renter, Kannam Reddi, two or three miles from Guditeru. He appears to be an intelligent man. I could find no one who had any complaint to make here.

8. On the 23rd I marched to Beemavaram, a very small village, and on the 24th I went to Samagadda, which is not in this district, but in the Godavery District.

9. When at Beemavaram I was told that a fair was held at Addateegala every Tuesday. As this village lies far away at a corner of the division, I thought it would be well to go and see the village and the fair. Accordingly on the morning of the 25th I sent on my camp to Ducherty and I went to Addateegala. In every march I had formerly gone I had always crossed several running streams, but in this march, after crossing the river near Rayapilli, where the roads to Ducherty and Addateegala branch off, I saw no water the whole way to Addateegala. I saw numbers of people going to the fair, and I observed that every person was carrying water with him. The greater part of the road from Rayapilli to Addateegala is hard and stony. Addateegala is said to be eighteen miles from Samagadda, and I reached it about noon. When going through the fair one of the first things I observed was a Komati cheating a hillman. They were exchanging tamarinds for sweet potatoes weight for weight. I allowed the Komati to finish his weighing and give the potatoes to the hillman, and then I asked him to give me the scales. The scales were so bad that I cannot understand how any one could not have seen that they were false. The Komati seeing he was found out, then threw some potatoes into the hillman's cloth, but even these did not make the weight of the potatoes equal that of the tamarinds. There was another hill man sitting by, who had evidently made a similar bargain. So I had his sweet potatoes weighed against the tamarinds he gave, and I found he had been cheated in the same way. I had the Komati arrested, and I regret that I could not give him a dozen or two lashes in the market place before all. It would have had much more effect than my taking him away and fining him. After this I could get hold of no more scales. I saw measures also which I suspected were not what they should have been, but I had no means of testing them. There can be no doubt that the hill people are cheated by the people who come up from the Godavery District on every hand, but it is very difficult to prevent their being cheated in an out-of-the-way corner like this. There is a Police Station here, but I was afraid to give the station officer any orders regarding the matter in case he should make matters worse by extorting money from any one he found transgressing instead of reporting him. However I directed the Inspector to try to arrange to go to Addateegala on a fair day when he did go and to see that the hillmen were not being cheated. There were 500 people if not more in the fair, but the want of water prevents people from coming, and I

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was assured that the fair would last for two days and be far more numerous attended if water was procurable. There is very little shelter too for the people. There is only one thatched shed at present, and it was quite full the whole time I was there. There is another larger shed, but it is unthatched at present. While I was in the fair Chekka Venkanna dora came and I spoke to him about the thatching of the shed, and he said he was to do it, but he was waiting till the rains came, as in putting on the grass water was required. I am not at all sure that he will fulfil his promise, for he is said to have made the same promise before and failed to perform it. I also spoke to him about the want of water and tried to persuade him to dig a well, but I was unsuccessful. There was a place shown me where there was some water, and where if a well were dug it is said there would be water all the year. Venkanna dora agreed to dig a well here for 100 Rupees. I understand that once before the late Mr. Jones, Assistant Superintendent of Police, received money for this purpose, but he returned it to Mr. Hutchins as he could get no contractor to do the work. I would, therefore, request that 100 Rupees be given at once to dig a well, as this is just the time when it is most difficult to get water. I went on to Ducherty about ten miles from Addateegala in the afternoon.

10. At Ducherty also it is difficult to procure water, and what is procurable is dirty. Money was given Mr. Jones to dig a well here, but it was also returned for the reason given above. Venkanna dora said he would dig a well here for 80 Rupees, and I request that 80 Rupees may be sanctioned for this purpose. There was one complaint made here against Venkanna dora, but the man did not come forward of his own accord and make complaint. I was going through the village and happened to ask the man who he was and what he did, when I found that he was the man whom Venkanna dora looted some years ago, for which offence Venkanna dora was tried and released through the complainant having been gained over by promises which were never fulfilled. In the course of conversation he told me that Venkanna dora had sold the produce of the tamarind trees close to his house for 9 Rupees to the chief ryot in the village on the pretence that he was in arrears on account of some land which he alleged was held by him. I saw the ryot, and it was perfectly clear from what he said that something had taken place regarding the trees, though he denied that he agreed to pay 9 Rupees for the produce. I had Venkanna dora up, but he denied he had interfered with the trees. He at the same time stated that the man did hold land, and was in arrears with the assessment for two years. I told him that if he was in arrears he must proceed to realize them in the regular manner, but he never can realize them even if his statement be correct, for he afterwards admitted no puttah and muchilika had been exchanged. Cheetahs prowl round this village the whole night. One carried off a sheep that was tied to a peg of the servants' tent one night. Another night a great noise got up. The Cutcherry sweeper awoke during the night and found a cheetah crouching close to him.

11. On the 28th I went to a small village called Dokada. Here a man from Addateegala preferred a charge of criminal breach of trust against the station officer of Koyur, who was formerly at Addateegala, but I was obliged to dismiss his complaint, under Section 147 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, because I found that, at the time he alleged the offence was committed at Addateegala, the Head Constable was at Koyur, and not at Addateegala. This was the only complaint made to me against the Police, though I asked the people in every village if the Police annoyed them in any way.

12. On the 29th I marched to Koyur. The residents of this village made no complaints, but in the evening, when I went to see the Police Station, the sub-renter of Budarala came to me with his maternal uncle and complained that Mottadam Sunyasi dora of Gudem had, on his father's death, sent for him and made him consent to pay 100 Rupees for his village, 40 Rupees in excess of what his father paid, and that he had also extorted one garce of paddy from him on account of his son's marriage, which was about to take place. I doubt very much whether any pressure was put upon him as he alleged, for he made contradictory statements and produced the puttah for 100 Rupees. His maternal uncle manages matters for the renter of Makaram and seems to be a sensible man, and I have no doubt that he, knowing that Sannyasi dora had no right to increase the rent, urged his nephew to make complaint saying that he had been forced to agree to pay 100

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Rupees. However as complaint had been made, I told them to give a complaint in writing when inquiry would be made.

13. On the 31st I sent on my camp to Kristnadevipettah, while I myself went through Budarala to Peddavalasa. Here there are very few houses, and the people when asked said they had no complaints to make. On the 1st April I left Peddavalasa and went to Kristnadevipettah, a very long march. I passed through the villages of Rumpolu and Makaram, where no one had any complaint to make.

14. I remained at Kristnadevipettah on the 2nd, and here one of the village watchmen came forward and accused one Chintala Cuniah, the Revenue Naidu, of having cut a great quantity of timber in the Government forests. The man bears a very bad character, whether he deserves it or not I do not know. I went to the place where the timber was said to be. I found a large quantity of timber of different sorts, but the chief question was where was it cut. The village watchman asserted it was cut in the Government forests, and he would show the place where it was cut, while Chintala Cuniah declared that it was cut in the forest belonging to a Mokhasa village of his own, and in that of another Mokhasadar who had sold him the timber. As the village watchman declared that he could show me the place where it was cut, I ordered him to point it out. After I had followed him some considerable distance into the jungle, it became evident to me that he knew nothing about where the timber was cut, and he at last admitted that he was told by another who promised to point out the place, but had been now gained over by Chintala Cuniah and refused to do so. I knew that there was enmity between the village watchman and Chintala Cuniah, but as the quantity of timber was very large, and as Chintala Cuniah was, according to all accounts, such a man as would not scruple to do such a thing, I thought it right to give the village watchman every opportunity of proving what he said. Some others preferred complaints against this Chintala Cuniah, but they were all regarding matters which had been disposed of before, and consequently I could take no notice of them. On the morning of the 3rd I returned to Nursapatam.

15. From the above account it will be seen that very few complaints were made, but this is easily accounted for by the fact that the people do not actually know their rights and do things which they are not bound to do merely because it has been the custom to do them. I went through every village unaccompanied by any one, so that the people might not be afraid to speak out, and asked the villagers if they had any complaints against any one to make, but still they all declared they had nothing to complain of.

16. With regard to the forests there is still a good deal of clearing going on, and I think some check should be put upon this, but it is very difficult to say how this is to be done. There is a Forest Overseer, but from what I have seen and from inquiries I made I doubt very much if his visits to the forests extend beyond Gobegondah. I have now ordered him to send a diary at the end of every month showing how he has been employed during the month. I myself think that he is quite unnecessary, and that good peons would do all the work that is required much better; but I need say nothing more about this here, as I have already written you about the reduction of the forest establishment.

17. As to the making of roads and the clearing of jungle paths a great deal still requires to be done. In many places where I went the path was little more than a foot broad with jungle grass on each side striking you in the face as you went along. The nullahs that have to be crossed are numerous and the descent to them on both sides is very steep, but it could be made much more easy. These hills have been so seldom visited by the Divisional Officer that he does not know what is really wanted. He has to trust entirely to the reports made to him. No provision was made last year for the repairing of many of the paths along which I went, but provision will be made for putting them in order this year. There is also another difficulty, the obtaining of coolies. Generally the work is done by the renters. There are villages of pariahs with a good number of houses, but they do not do cooly. They appear to be much better off than those of the same caste generally are in the plains. They have bullocks and trade and take up articles from the low country or the fairs which they exchange with the ryots for grain. The ryots live in very small villages, scattered here and there, whenever they think they can make a good clearing.

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18. I have given no description of the country through which I passed as it has all been described before, nor have I said anything about the difficulties of the greater number of the marches as former reports show what they are. I and the greater part of those who accompanied me had fever when out, and those who escaped when out have all had fever after their return, and I and several others have not yet got rid of it. I think I started too late, and should I ever have to do the work again, I would start in January, and certainly not later than the beginning of February.

No. 152.

ORDER THEREON, 27th August 1873, No. 1380.

The Governor in Council is glad to perceive from these reports that the Hill Tracts were scarcely at all disturbed in the time to which they refer, and that the season was exceptionally good. Mr. Jones' conduct in the matter of the threatened outbreak of the Parimi Khonds appears to have been highly judicious, and attended with satisfactory results. The greater confidence manifested by the Sowrahs which he notes is very gratifying. The recognition of Ooriya as an official language which he advocates has been ordered in separate Proceedings.

2. The Governor in Council awaits the Agent's recommendation for the removal of the Police Station from Wadasara to Gatteru, and his proposals in regard to the rebuilding of the bungalow in Gunnupur destroyed by the floods in the Vamsadara. He will submit plan and estimate for the Cutcherry required at Rayagada.

3. The Agent will take an opportunity of congratulating the Jeypore Rajah, on behalf of Government, on his late excursion beyond the Hills, and express their hope that he will be induced to extend his travels in future.

4. The Governor in Council approves the steps taken to carry out the Mulkangiri Settlement, and hopes to hear in the next report that its introduction has been completed.

5. The Government are glad to learn that the proceedings in Gundra Maji's case have had a good effect in maintaining order.

6. Upwards of Rupees 8,500 were expended out of the annual grant of Rupees 10,000 for improving and maintaining the communications. The Government attach importance to the full employment of this grant, and trust that constant attention will be given to the subject.

7. The following facts are deduced from the statements illustrating the working of the Agency Courts:—

Civil.

Years.	SUITS DISPOSED OF.		SUITS PENDING
	Original.	Appeal.	On 31st December.
1870 ...	185	7	78
1871 ...	279	9	122
1872 ...	317	3	77

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Criminal.

Years.	COMMITTED FOR TRIAL.		PERSONS CONVICTED.
	Cases.	Persons.	
1870 ...	26	37	14
1871 ...	27	40	28
1872 ...	24	32	17

8. The tour expenses, aggregating Rupees 558-8-4, are sanctioned.

(True Extract.)

*Shinwell
Ag. Under. Secy
for Chief Secretary.*

To the Agent to the Governor of Fort St. George in Vizagapatam.

- .. Revenue Department.
- .. Public Works Department.
- .. Inspector-General of Police.
- .. Director of Public Instruction.
- .. Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department.
- .. Accountant-General.

N^o 55.

Comd. to the Secy of Revenue

11 Sept. 73

*To B. J. Main
Sep 15/9.*

Exd. J. Wright.

*10th Sep 73
Sent to Madras Office*

Reve 1873 Sept

No. 2957

Obht. of 1873 *Exhibits*

JUDICIAL.

THE AGENT TO THE GOVERNOR
OF FORT ST. GEORGE
IN VIZAGAPATTAN.

Printed August, 27th
No. 5458 *1873*

G.O., 27th August 1873, No. 1380

AUGUST.

No. 151-1525

2/16

Propagator.—The Acting Agent's report
the Hill Trade of Vizagapatnam for the 7
1872-73, revised.

No. 552

With 1873

11-10-1873