(1) Number of Pages 28

(2) Date of repair 25.4.67.

(3) Initials of the Referencer

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

## GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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| G.O. No. | 1532 | Press |
| B.P. No. | | Mis. |

Dated 10. 12. 1874 ~~1876~~ .

*Not to be folded or roughly handled*

No. 119. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 20th October 1874, No. 3,043 :—

Read the following letter from W. S. FOSTER, Esq., Acting Collector of the Godavery District, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cocanada, 26th November 1873, No. 386 :—

I HAVE the honor to forward, herewith, translation of a petition presented to the Sub-Collector by Angara Krishna Bramanji Pantalu, late Zemindar of Velampalem Moottah in this district, and copy of Sub-Collector's letter sending it for my favorable consideration.

2. The Zemindar brings to notice that his Estate was sold by Government in 1851 for arrears of revenue due by his late father, though the amount was small, chiefly on a consideration of the extent of private debts in which the Estate was then involved.

3. From the papers marginally noted, it would appear that the petitioner is correct in his assertion. The petitioner's father died leaving an arrear of about Rupees 7,889-4-0, and some private debts outstanding against his Estate, which consisted of eight villages. The petitioner was a minor, fourteen years old, and it was unlikely that the public demand and private liabilities should be satisfied in four years, if the Estate was kept under the management of the Court of Wards. The Commissioner of the Northern Circars, therefore, recommended the sale of the Estate for the arrears of revenue quoted above, viz., Rupees 7,889-4-0, and interest, etc., thereon. The Estate was sold, and it realized a sum of Rupees 35,000, and upon the strong recommendation of the Collector, who valued the Estate at 50,000 Rupees the Estate was bought in by Government.

From the Collector, to the Commissioner of Northern Circars, dated 8th July 1851, No. 45.
From the Collector, to the Commissioner of Northern Circars, dated 22nd July 1851, No. 53.
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Northern Circar's Commissioner's Proceedings, dated 12th August 1851, No. 395.
Commissioner's letter to Government, dated 11th July 1851, No. 56.

4. The Sub-Collector states that the petitioner has no means of livelihood, and is now living on the generosity of those who are acquainted with the fame and rank of his father.

5. The petitioner states that the Zemindars of Peddapur and Ramachendrapur, who had been allowed all opportunities of clearing their arrears to Government, had been allowed a maintenance allowance which continues to the present day, notwithstanding they had failed to discharge their arrears, and a large amount of revenue, (6 lakhs of rupees in Peddapur) had consequently been writ-

ten off. He requests that the same indulgence may be shown to him, as it would be more valuable to him in his present circumstances.

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|---|---|---|
| From Collector to Board, | 8th Nov. | 1819. |
| Do. do. | 3rd April | 1822 |
| From Board to Government, | 30th June | ,, |
| From Government to Board, | 8th Aug. | ,, |
| From Board to Government, | 17th Feb. | 1825 |
| From Government to Board, | 19th July | ,, |
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From Collector to Board, dated 11th Feb. 1847, No. 13.
Bd.'s Procs., dated 27th May 1847.
From Collector to Board, dated 9th July 1847.
Do. dated 5th Aug. 1847, No. 80.
G. O., dated 21st Sept. 1847.
Bd.'s Procs., dated 14th Oct. 1847.

6. From the correspondence as per margin, it would appear that the petitioner's Estate was treated as an ancient Zemindari as Peddapur or Ramachendrapur, and the peishcush which was at first fixed at the full annual assessment of the Estate, was reduced by one-third as in the case of other Zemindaries.

7. A reference to the papers on the subject will show that the petitioner's statement contained in paragraph 5 of his letter is correct. After six years management by Government, the Peddapur Estate was put up to auction for an arrear of upwards of six lakhs of rupees, and as there was no bid, the Estate was bought in by Government for a year's peishcush, the remainder having been written off the accounts. In Extract Minutes of Consultation of the 21st September 1847, No. 1,031A., the Government have sanctioned a monthly allowance of Rupees 600 to the ex-Zemindar and his brother.

8. If the Government chooses to give any allowance to the petitioner, it will be nothing but liberality on their part. I do not think that they are bound, by any justice, to give any; if I were in their place, and dealing with my own money, I should probably give some allowance; but I must leave it to Government to decide whether in this case they will give any.

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ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From J. F. SNAITH, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to W. S. FOSTER, Esq., Acting Collector of the Godavery District, dated Rajahmundry, 5th November 1873, No. 368.

I HAVE the honor to forward, herewith, for your favorable consideration, a petition presented to me by Angara Krishna Brahmahji Pantalu, son of the last Zemindar of the late Valempalem Estate, in the Ramachendrapuram Taluq.

2. Petitioner states that he was a minor when his father died, that instead of placing the Estate (which was one of the ancient Zemindari Estates) under the management of the Court of Wards, the Collector under the orders ofthe Commissioner of the Northern Circars sold it, a few



months after the demise of the petitioner's father, for a small balance of peishcush and a private debt (transferred to Government) due by his father to the Zemindar of the Pittapuram Estate then under the management of the Court of Wards, and that consequently he has been reduced in his circumstances so much that he is starving.

3. He prays that an allowance may be granted to him for his maintenance as in the case of Zemindars whose Estates have been annexed to the British territories.

4. Upon inquiry, I have found that he has no means of livelihood and is now living on the generosity of those who are acquainted with the fame and rank of his father. He is ready to accept an allowance, however small it may be.

(True Copy.)

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

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ENCLOSURE No. 2.—Translation of Petition.

From W. S. FOSTER, Esq., Acting Collector of the Godavery District, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cocanada, 3rd June 1874, No. 162.

REFERRING to the Board's Official Memorandum of the 31st March last, No. 439, I have the honor to enclose a Statement showing the information required.

2. The old accounts for two of the villages are not forthcoming, and it is not therefore possible to give the average collections of the five years succeeding the sale of the Estate, nor the increased receipts due to improvement of the sources of irrigation for them.

3. The Statement has been prepared from the Tahsildar's report, but I cannot believe that the increase in cultivation has been entirely caused by the improvement of the sources of irrigation; other causes must have been at work to bring about this increase.

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ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Statement showing the collections of the Velampalem Estate.

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SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. The Collector of the Godavery District submits for favorable consideration, a petition from Krishna Bramahji Pantalu, adopted son of the late Zemindar of Velampalem, representing that he has no means of subsistence and praying that a pension may be granted to him. In support of his prayer, he urges (1) that on the death of his father in 1851, petitioner being then a minor fourteen years old, his Estate was sold for a small amount of arrears of revenue Rupees 7,897 and was purchased by Government for Rupees 35,000, out of which was paid Rupees 22,000 in liquidation of a debt due to the Pittapure Estate then under the management of the Court of Wards; (2) that though he was also a minor, no consideration was shown him nor was any attempt made by the authorities to secure to him at least a portion of his Estate, for which arrangements might have been made; (3) that in the case of other ancient Zemindaries sold for arrears of revenue and purchased by Government, an annual allowance was assigned for the support of the ex-Zemindars who were not so much in need of indulgence as himself.

3. The following is a brief history of the Velampalem Estate. It was a small but ancient Zemindari comprising eight villages subject to an annual peishcush of Star Pagodas 3,114. It was held by the Angara family for more than a century before the acquisition of the Northern Circars by the East India Company in 1768. The Zemindar held the office of Majamdar. The Estate being heavily in arrears in 1791 it was proposed to resume it and grant a life pension of Pagodas 100 a month to the Zemindar, a proposal to which he refused to accede. The Estate was attached and managed by the Collector until the permanent settlement when it was classed as Havelly and fully assessed. The Zemindar then got the option of taking his Estate at the full assessment which was Star Pagodas 1,574* above the Jumma previously payable, or of accepting a pension for life. With the natural desire of recovering his ancestral estate and of transmitting it to his posterity he agreed to take it on the very unfavorable terms proposed, with the hope no doubt of obtaining better terms at a future time. The estate was accordingly restored to him in 1803 free of arrears. As was to be anticipated however it did not long continue so.

| | Star Pagodas. |
|---|---|
| * Permanent Jumma ... ... ... | 4,688 |
| Previous Jumma... ... ... | 3,114 |
| Excess... | 1,574 |

4. For thirteen years (1791 to 1803) whilst the estate was under attachment, the Zemindar was deprived of his income and it was restored on condition of paying *full assessment* leaving no profit to the proprietor. The result is thus described in a letter dated 25th November 1819, from the Collector on a petition from the Zemindar.

"The permanent jumma of the Estate was fixed on an average of thirteen years collections without any deduction whatever for the Zemindar's share."

"The Deshpondi of the circar and the gumastahs of the Majamdar (the Zemindar held this office) had their lands confirmed to them in perpetuity on more favorable terms, their Jumma being fixed at two-thirds of the amount at which the villages were valued by the Circuit Committee; had similar indulgence been extended to the Majamdar himself, the accumulation of the present arrear would have been inexcusable, the fact being otherwise, it will occasion less surprise to hear that the family are in very involved circumstances. Since the restoration of the moottah, the revenue has never been paid with any regularity. Balances have accrued at the end of every fasli, to liquidate which recourse was had to loans and anticipations of the succeeding years' revenue."

5. At the close of Fasli 1231 the Estate was in arrears to the extent of Rupees 9,371 with the prospect of being more heavily involved owing to damage from inundation in 1822. To place the Zemindar on the same footing as other proprietors, the Collector proposed to reduce the peishcush Pagodas 1,629 and raised the question whether the reduction should not have retrospective effect from 1803 when the estate was restored. This recommendation was supported† by the Board, and Government sanctioned‡ a reduction of the peishcush to Pagodas 3,058 from the then current fasli reserving the question as to retrospective effect for consideration on report as to whether the Estate could properly be considered an ancient Zemindari.

Letter 3rd April 1823.

† Dated 30th June 1823.
‡ „ 8th August 1823.



6. The Board* submitted a further report to the effect that the Estate should be considered an ancient Zemindari and recommended that retrospective effect should be given to the reduction of Peishcush previously sanctioned. To this recommendation Government declined† to accede.

* Dated 17th February 1825.

† „ 19th July 1825.

7. In thus deciding they were chiefly influenced by the consideration, founded on an‡ Extract of a letter from the Chief in Council, dated 31st October 1790, that the Zemindar was only an adopted son whose connection with the family was "dubious." They however sanctioned the remission of all arrears then due. The amount remitted was Rupees 11,754 and the surplus collections of Faslies 1232 and 1234, Rupees 7,947 was paid to the Zemindar. At this time some unauthorized Inams were added to the estate, the Peishcush being proportionately increased. This raised the amount to Rupees 12,632.

‡ "He (the Zemindar) has no natural descendants but adopted a young man as his son whom we do not consider as a regular successor as he neither applied for or obtained any sanction for that purpose."

8. In 1827 the Zemindar petitioned Government requesting a re-consideration of their former order declining to give retrospective effect to the order sanctioning a reduction of Peishcush. In regard to the chief reason which apparently induced Government to take a view of the case unfavorable to the Zemindar viz., that his connection with the Angara family was "*dubious*" (referring to the allegation that he was adopted without authority) he pointed out that this was an error and explained that as to himself he was not an *adopted* son and that his father though adopted by his predecessor the adoption was made with the sanction of the Mahomedan Government existing at the time. He also maintained that independent of the adoption his father was next heir, being the son of his predecessor's first cousin. The Zemindar said he was prepared to prove these statements if their truth was doubted. He also urged on the consideration of Government that he was deeply involved by private debts, the result not of extravagance or mismanagement but of the former heavy assessment the payment of which left nothing for his support. He relied upon the liberality of Government to enable him to pay his debts and save his Estate.

9. On a reconsideration of the previous correspondence and referring to a despatch from the Court of Directors, Government took a favorable view of the Zemindar's claim as will be seen from the following Extract from their order:§ —"The whole correspondence has been communicated to the Court of Directors and it appears from paragraph 8 of their Despatch, dated 17th January 1827, that the Honorable Court although they do not object to the decision of Government appear to wish a more liberal construction had been put on the case. The Governor in Council is of opinion that the petitioner has no claim whatever of right either to the reduction of the assessment or to the arrears of over-collection. It was optional with him either to retain or relinquish the lands on being informed of the assessment which had been fixed upon them. It is nevertheless true that the assessment compared with that of

§ Extract Minutes of Consultation, dated 14th September 1827.

other Zemindaries, was unusually high; and the Governor in Council is of opinion that the Zemindar's efforts to satisfy the public demand for so long a period and to retain his Estate, notwithstanding the unfavorable terms imposed, entitle him to indulgent consideration, and accordingly resolves that instead of collecting immediately the amount of the assessment which has lately been lowered to Star Pagodas 3,058, the sum of 1,500 pagodas per annum only shall be taken for the next ten years."

10. In 1841 the Estate was again attached for arrears Rupees 5,604. From the Collector's letter, dated 23rd July 1841, proposing the attachment of this and several other estates, it appears that the proprietors had suffered considerably from the very unfavorable character of the three preceding seasons. In regard to the Velampalem Estate, however, the Collector remarked "the Zemindar owes his present position entirely to his own misconduct," the nature of which was not specified. The Zemindar having paid a considerable portion of the arrears and arranged to the satisfaction of the Collector for payment of the balance, the Estate was not sold.

Dated 23rd September 1841.

11. The Zemindar died in 1851 leaving an adopted son, the present petitioner, then a minor, fourteen years old. Arrears of revenue amounting to Rupees 8,000 were then due and the Zemindar owed Rupees 22,000 to the minor proprietor of the Pittapure Zemindari for which half the Estate had been mortgaged. The value of the personal property, exclusive of grain and live stock, left by the Zemindar, was only Rupees 565. The family jewels valued at Rupees 6,000 had been pawned for about half their value to pay the Government revenue, and when the Zemindar died, the time for redeeming them had expired. The Collector recommended that the management of the Estate should be assumed by the Court of Wards.

12. The Commissioner* of the Northern Circars however was opposed to this course for the following reasons: that "the alleged heir a minor was adopted at the time of the Zemindar's death" the Collector afterwards pointed out that this was an error and that the boy had been adopted in 1838 (letter dated 22nd July 1851), that it was doubtful whether the arzi declaring the adoption was genuine, that more than half the peishcush was in arrears and the Zemindar had been warned several times that the Estate would be sold in case he failed to meet the demand, that the private debts of the Zemindar amounted to a large sum, of which Rupees 22,000 were due to the Minor estate of Pittapore, in charge of the Court of Wards, that of this sum Rupees 2,640 should be paid immediately, otherwise half the estate which had been mortgaged would be lost, and that it would not be possible to free the estate from its incumbrances in four years of minority. He therefore recommended that the Estate should be sold on account of arrears of revenue. Government, in consideration of the embarrassed condition of the estate, approved of the Commissioner's proposal.

* Letter to Government, dated 11th July 1851.

G. O., dated 8th August 1851, No. 597.



13. The estate was accordingly sold, and was purchased by Government for Rupees 35,000. In general estimation its value was Rupees 50,000. The Government demand having been satisfied the Collector was directed to hold the balance, Rupees 23,882 at the disposal of the Court for the satisfaction of the claims of the creditors, and to apply to Court for execution of a Razinamah on which Rupees 22,574 was due to the Pittapore Minor.

Commissioner's Order, dated 25th October 1851.
G. O., dated 25th November 1851.

14. Thus was the representative of an ancient family of respectability and position reduced to poverty at the age of fourteen. After depending for more than twenty years on the generosity of those acquainted with the fame and rank of his father, he now appeals to Government for a pittance, however small, to save him from starvation. Regarding petitioner's request, the Collector observes it is not a question of right on the part of the petitioner, but of liberality on the part of Government. "If (he says) I were in their place and dealing with my own money, I would probably give some allowance, but I must leave it to Government to decide whether they will give any."

Sub-Collector's letter, 26th November 1873.

15. In support of his appeal, petitioner refers to the indulgence shown to the Peddapur Zemindar when his estate was sold for arrears of revenue and purchased by Government. The Peddapur estate was first sold for arrears in 1841, but "Government having strong objections to the transfer of landed property from a family who have possessed it for centuries" cancelled the sale and directed that some arrangement should be made with the view of preserving the Estate to the family. The Estate was accordingly attached and retained under Government management for five years. In 1846 the arrears amounted to Rupees 4,60,000, and the Collector entertained no hope of recovering such a large balance. The embarrassed condition of the Estate was ascribed to the Zemindar's reckless extravagance, mismanagement, family dissensions and consequent litigation. The idea of saving the Estate was therefore abandoned as hopeless. It was accordingly sold in 1847 for arrears and purchased by Government for one year's assessment Rupees 1,69,435. Arrears to the amount of Rupees 6,46,893 were remitted and a pension of Rupees 600 a month was granted to the Zemindar although he still retained the estate of Cottam yielding an annual income of Rupees 10,000.

Extract Minutes Consultation, dated 4th January 1842.

Extract Minutes Consultation, dated 4th July 1842.

Extract Minutes of Consultation, dated 2nd December 1846.

Extract Minutes of Consultation, dated 21st September 1847.

16. The previous history of the Peddapur family is this:—

Board's Proceedings, dated 3rd August 1846.

"The family were servants or managers to the Reddywars, Deshmooks or farming landholders. In the year 1734 they were "attainted and cut off." In 1750 the then Amildar

Mamun Ulla Khan for the private consideration of Rupees 90,000 conferred the Zemindari on Roysparauze. This individual was afterwards killed fighting on the side of the French against the British. He left a son Timmarauze eight years old. The corruption of the times, but in what particular way developed is not known, favored the claims of Timmarauze to the succession—Fifth Report, page 665."

17. In view to ascertain the present value of the property formerly comprising the Velampalem Estate as compared with its former value the Collector was directed to submit a Statement showing the average collections of assessment for the five years succeeding the sale compared with the average collections of the last five years, and to state what proportion of the increase may be ascribed to improvement of the sources of irrigation made subsequent to the sale. The statement submitted is defective as owing to the loss of accounts the collections of two villages for the first series of years cannot be ascertained. But as an approximate estimate only is required it may be assumed that the revenue of these two villages has increased in the same ratio as that of the others. Calculating at this rate the average collections of the entire Estate for the first five years, would be Rupees 18,412, which compared with the collections of the last five years, Rupees 30,662, shows an annual increase of Rupees 12,250. The Tahsildar says the whole of the increase is due to irrigation improvements, but the Collector does not believe this. Probably the operations of the Revenue Settlement Department may account for a portion of the increase. The total assets of the estate when held by the Zemindar were Rupees 18,948, which compared with the present revenue shows an annual increase of Rupees 11,714. As mentioned before, on the death of the Zemindar in 1851, petitioner being then a minor the estate was sold for arrears of revenue, Rupees 7,897, and was purchased by Government for Rupees 35,000.

18. Krishna Bramahji Pantulu, adopted son of the late Zemindar, has no claim to a pension as a matter of right but as Government have in similar circumstances dealt liberally with others less deserving and not so much in need of indulgence the Board resolve to submit his application for the favorable consideration of Government with the recommendation that a pension of Rupees 250 a month be granted to him.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

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No. 120. ORDER THEREON, 10th December 1874, No. 1,532.

Miscellaneous.

THE Governor in Council observes that the Estate was sold twenty-two years ago and that the legality of the sale is not questioned.

2. The appeal is made not on any grounds of right but simply because this descendant of a former Zemindar has no means of livelihood.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,*
10*th December* 1874.

4. There are doubtless hardships in the case, but it appears that efforts were made on more than one occasion to enable the proprietor to retain his Estate, and eventually it was bought in at a price which freed the family from debt.

5. The Governor in Council considers that the initiative in this case should not have been taken by the local officers without instructions from Government.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
*Acting Secretary to Government.*

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. G. A. Turton.

No. 3,043.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 20th October 1874.

Read the following letter from W. S. FOSTER, Esq., Acting Collector of the Godavery District, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cocanada, 26th November 1873, No. 386 :—

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2. The Zemindar brings to notice that his Estate was sold by Government in 1851 for arrears of revenue due by his late father, though the amount was small, chiefly on a consideration of the extent of private debts in which the Estate was then involved.

3. From the papers marginally noted, it would appear that the petitioner is correct in his assertion. The petitioner's father died leaving an arrear of about Rupees 7,889-4-0, and some private debts outstanding against his Estate, which consisted of eight villages. The petitioner was a minor, fourteen years old, and it was unlikely that the public demand and private liabilities should be satisfied in four years, if the Estate was kept under the management of the Court of Wards. The Commissioner of the Northern Circars, therefore, recommended the sale of the Estate for the arrears of revenue quoted above, viz., Rupees 7,889-4-0, and interest, etc., thereon. The Estate was sold, and it realized a sum of Rupees 35,000, and upon the strong recommendation of the Collector, who valued the Estate at 50,000 Rupees the Estate was bought in by Government.

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ten off. He requests that the same indulgence may be shown to him, as it would be more valuable to him in his present circumstances.

| | | |
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| From Board to Government, | 30th June | ,, |
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| Do. do. | 7th Nov. | ,, |
| Do. do. | 12th June | 1826. |
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| From Government to Board, | 10th Oct. | ,, |
| Do. do. | 31st March | 1828. |
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Bd.'s Procs., dated 14th Oct. 1847.

6. From the correspondence as per margin, it would appear that the petitioner's Estate was treated as an ancient Zemindari as Peddapur or Ramachendrapur, and the peishcush which was at first fixed at the full annual assessment of the Estate, was reduced by one-third as in the case of other Zemindaries.

7. A reference to the papers on the subject will show that the petitioner's statement contained in paragraph 5 of his letter is correct. After six years management by Government, the Peddapur Estate was put up to auction for an arrear of upwards of six lakhs of rupees, and as there was no bid, the Estate was bought in by Government for a year's peishcush, the remainder having been written off the accounts. In Extract Minutes of Consultation of the 21st September 1847, No. 1,031A., the Government have sanctioned a monthly allowance of Rupees 600 to the ex-Zemindar and his brother.

8. If the Government chooses to give any allowance to the petitioner, it will be nothing but liberality on their part. I do not think that they are bound, by any justice, to give any; if I were in their place, and dealing with my own money, I should probably give some allowance; but I must leave it to Government to decide whether in this case they will give any.

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ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From J. F. SNAITH, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to W. S. FOSTER, Esq., Acting Collector of the Godavery District, dated Rajahmundry, 5th November 1873, No. 368.

I HAVE the honor to forward, herewith, for your favorable consideration, a petition presented to me by Angara Krishna Brahmahji Pantalu, son of the last Zemindar of the late Valempalem Estate, in the Ramachendrapuram Taluq.

2. Petitioner states that he was a minor when his father died, that instead of placing the Estate (which was one of the ancient Zemindari Estates) under the management of the Court of Wards, the Collector under the orders of the Commissioner of the Northern Circars sold it, a few months after the demise of the petitioner's father, for a small balance of peishcush and a private debt (transferred to Government) due by his father to the Zemindar of the Pittapuram Estate then under the management of the Court of Wards, and that consequently he has been reduced in his circumstances so much that he is starving.

3. He prays that an allowance may be granted to him for his maintenance as in the case of Zemindars whose Estates have been annexed to the British territories.

4. Upon inquiry, I have found that he has no means of livelihood and is now living on the generosity of those who are acquainted with the fame and rank of his father. He is ready to accept an allowance, however small it may be.

(True Copy.)

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

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ENCLOSURE No. 2.—Translation of Petition.

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From W. S. FOSTER, Esq., Acting Collector of the Godavery District, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cocanada, 3rd June 1874, No. 162.

REFERRING to the Board's Official Memorandum of the 31st March last, No. 439, I have the honor to enclose a Statement showing the information required.

2. The old accounts for two of the villages are not forthcoming, and it is not therefore possible to give the average collections of the five years succeeding the sale of the Estate, nor the increased receipts due to improvement of the sources of irrigation for them.

3. The Statement has been prepared from the Tahsildar's report, but I cannot believe that the increase in cultivation has been entirely caused by the improvement of the sources of irrigation; other causes must have been at work to bring about this increase.

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ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Statement showing the collections of the Velampalem Estate.

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SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. The Collector of the Godavery District submits for favorable consideration, a petition from Krishna Bramahji Pantalu, adopted son of the late Zemindar of Velampalem, representing that he has no means of subsistence and praying that a pension may be granted to him. In support of his prayer, he urges (1) that on the death of his father in 1851, petitioner being then a minor fourteen years old, his Estate was sold for a small amount of arrears of revenue Rupees 7,897 and was purchased by Government for Rupees 35,000, out of which was paid Rupees 22,000 in liquidation of a debt due to the Pittapure Estate then under the management of the Court of Wards; (2) that though he was also a minor, no consideration was shown him nor was any attempt made by the authorities to secure to him at least a portion of his Estate, for which arrangements might have been made; (3) that in the case of other ancient Zemindaries sold for arrears of revenue and purchased by Government, an annual allowance was assigned for the support of the ex Zemindars who were not so much in need of indulgence as himself.

3. The following is a brief history of the Velampalem Estate. It was a small but ancient Zemindari comprising eight villages subject to an annual peishcush of Star Pagodas 3,114. It was held by the Angara family for more than a century before the acquisition of the Northern Circars by the East India Company in 1768. The Zemindar held the office of Majamdar. The Estate being heavily in arrears in 1791 it was proposed to resume it and grant a life pension of Pagodas 100 a month to the Zemindar, a proposal to which he refused to accede. The Estate was attached and managed by the Collector until the permanent settlement when it was classed as Havelly and fully assessed. The Zemindar then got the option of taking his Estate at the full assessment which was Star Pagodas 1,574* above the Jumma previously payable, or of accepting a pension for life. With the natural desire of recovering his ancestral estate and of transmitting it to his posterity he agreed to take it on the very unfavorable terms proposed, with the hope no doubt of obtaining better terms at a future time. The estate was accordingly restored to him in 1803 free of arrears. As was to be anticipated however it did not long continue so.

| | Star Pagodas. |
|---|---|
| * Permanent Jumma ... ... | 4,688 |
| Previous Jumma... ... ... | 3,114 |
| Excess... | 1,574 |

4. For thirteen years (1791 to 1803) whilst the estate was under attachment, the Zemindar was deprived of his income and it was restored on condition of paying *full assessment* leaving no profit to the proprietor. The result is thus described in a letter dated 25th November 1819, from the Collector on a petition from the Zemindar.

"The permanent jumma of the Estate was fixed on an average of thirteen years collections without any deduction whatever for the Zemindar's share."

"The Deshpondi of the circar and the gumastahs of the Majamdar (the Zemindar held this office) had their lands confirmed to them in perpetuity on more favorable terms, their Jummas being fixed at two-thirds of the amount at which the villages were valued by the Circuit Committee; had similar indulgence been extended to the Majamdar himself, the accumulation of the present arrear would have been inexcusable, the fact being otherwise, it will occasion less surprise to hear that the family are in very involved circumstances. Since the restoration of the moottah, the revenue has never been paid with any regularity. Balances have accrued at the end of every fasli, to liquidate which recourse was had to loans and anticipations of the succeeding years' revenue."

5. At the close of Fasli 1231 the Estate was in arrears to the extent of Rupees 9,371 with the prospect of being more heavily involved owing to damage from inundation in 1822. To place the Zemindar on the same footing as other proprietors, the Collector proposed to reduce the peishcush Pagodas 1,629 and raised the question whether the reduction should not have retrospective effect from 1803 when the estate was restored. This recommendation was supported† by the Board, and Government sanctioned‡ a reduction of the peishcush to Pagodas 3,058 from the then current fasli reserving the question as to retrospective effect for consideration on report as to whether the Estate could properly be considered an ancient Zemindari.

Letter 3rd April 1823.

† Dated 30th June 1823.
‡ ,, 8th August 1823.

6. The Board* submitted a further report to the effect that the Estate should be considered an ancient Zemindari and recommended that retrospective effect should be given to the reduction of Peishcush previously sanctioned. To this recommendation Government declined† to accede.

* Dated 17th February 1825.

† ,, 19th July 1825.

7. In thus deciding they were chiefly influenced by the consideration, founded on an‡ Extract of a letter from the Chief in Council, dated 31st October 1790, that the Zemindar was only an adopted son whose connection with the family was "dubious." They however sanctioned the remission of all arrears then due. The amount remitted was Rupees 11,751 and the surplus collections of Faslies 1232 and 1234, Rupees 7,947 was paid to the Zemindar. At this time some unauthorized Inams were added to the estate, the Peishcush being proportionately increased. This raised the amount to Rupees 12,632.

‡ "He (the Zemindar) has no natural descendants but adopted a young man as his son whom we do not consider as a regular successor as he neither applied for or obtained any sanction for that purpose."

8. In 1827 the Zemindar petitioned Government requesting a re-consideration of their former order declining to give retrospective effect to the order sanctioning a reduction of Peishcush. In regard to the chief reason which apparently induced Government to take a view of the case unfavorable to the Zemindar viz., that his connection with the Angara family was "*dubious*" (referring to the allegation that he was adopted without authority) he pointed out that this was an error and explained that as to himself he was not an *adopted* son and that his father though adopted by his predecessor the adoption was made with the sanction of the Mahomedan Government existing at the time. He also maintained that independent of the adoption his father was next heir, being the son of his predecessor's first cousin. The Zemindar said he was prepared to prove these statements if their truth was doubted. He also urged on the consideration of Government that he was deeply involved by private debts, the result not of extravagance or mismanagement but of the former heavy assessment the payment of which left nothing for his support. He relied upon the liberality of Government to enable him to pay his debts and save his Estate.

9. On a reconsideration of the previous correspondence and referring to a despatch from the Court of Directors, Government took a favorable view of the Zemindar's claim as will be seen from the following Extract from their order:§ —"The whole correspondence has been communicated to the Court of Directors and it appears from paragraph 8 of their Despatch, dated 17th January 1827, that the Honorable Court although they do not object to the decision of Government appear to wish a more liberal construction had been put on the case. The Governor in Council is of opinion that the petitioner has no claim whatever of right either to the reduction of the assessment or to the arrears of over-collection. It was optional with him either to retain or relinquish the lands on being informed of the assessment which had been fixed upon them. It is nevertheless true that the assessment compared with that of

§ Extract Minutes of Consultation, dated 14th September 1827.

other Zemindaries, was unusually high; and the Governor in Council is of opinion that the Zemindar's efforts to satisfy the public demand for so long a period and to retain his Estate, notwithstanding the unfavorable terms imposed, entitle him to indulgent consideration, and accordingly resolves that instead of collecting immediately the amount of the assessment which has lately been lowered to Star Pagodas 3,058, the sum of 1,500 pagodas per annum only shall be taken for the next ten years."

10. In 1841 the Estate was again attached for arrears Rupees 5,604. From the Collector's letter, dated 23rd July 1841, proposing the attachment of this and several other estates, it appears that the proprietors had suffered considerably from the very unfavorable character of the three preceding seasons. In regard to the Velampalem Estate, however, the Collector remarked "the Zemindar owes his present position entirely to his own misconduct," the nature of which was not specified. The Zemindar having paid a considerable portion of the arrears and arranged to the satisfaction of the Collector for payment of the balance, the Estate was not sold.

Dated 23rd September 1841.

11. The Zemindar died in 1851 leaving an adopted son, the present petitioner, then a minor, fourteen years old. Arrears of revenue amounting to Rupees 8,000 were then due and the Zemindar owed Rupees 22,000 to the minor proprietor of the Pittapure Zemindari for which half the Estate had been mortgaged. The value of the personal property, exclusive of grain and live stock, left by the Zemindar, was only Rupees 565. The family jewels valued at Rupees 6,000 had been pawned for about half their value to pay the Government revenue, and when the Zemindar died, the time for redeeming them had expired. The Collector recommended that the management of the Estate should be assumed by the Court of Wards.

12. The Commissioner* of the Northern Circars however was opposed to this course for the following reasons: that "the alleged heir a minor was adopted at the time of the Zemindar's death" the Collector afterwards pointed out that this was an error and that the boy had been adopted in 1838 (letter dated 22nd July 1851), that it was doubtful whether the arzi declaring the adoption was genuine, that more than half the peishcush was in arrears and the Zemindar had been warned several times that the Estate would be sold in case he failed to meet the demand, that the private debts of the Zemindar amounted to a large sum, of which Rupees 22,000 were due to the Minor estate of Pittapore, in charge of the Court of Wards, that of this sum Rupees 2,640 should be paid immediately, otherwise half the estate which had been mortgaged would be lost, and that it would not be possible to free the estate from its incumbrances in four years of minority. He therefore recommended that the Estate should be sold on account of arrears of revenue. Government, in consideration of the embarrassed condi ion of the estate, approved of the Commissioner's proposal.

* Letter to Government, dated 11th July 1851.

G. O., dated 8th August 1851, No. 597.

13. The estate was accordingly sold, and was purchased by Government for Rupees 35,000. In general estimation its value was Rupees 50,000. The Government demand having been satisfied the Collector was directed to hold the balance, Rupees 23,882 at the disposal of the Court for the satisfaction of the claims of the creditors, and to apply to Court for execution of a Razinamah on which Rupees 22,574 was due to the Pittapore Minor.

Commissioner's Order, dated 25th October 1851.
G. O., dated 25th November 1851.

14. Thus was the representative of an ancient family of respectability and position reduced to poverty at the age of fourteen. After depending for more than twenty years on the generosity of those acquainted with the fame and rank of his father, he now appeals to Government for a pittance, however small, to save him from starvation. Regarding petitioner's request, the Collector observes it is not a question of right on the part of the petitioner, but of liberality on the part of Government. "If (he says) I were in their place and dealing with my own money, I would probably give some allowance, but I must leave it to Government to decide whether they will give any."

Sub-Collector's letter, 26th November 1873.

15. In support of his appeal, petitioner refers to the indulgence shown to the Peddapur Zemindar when his estate was sold for arrears of revenue and purchased by Government. The Peddapur estate was first sold for arrears in 1841, but "Government having strong objections to the transfer of landed property from a family who have possessed it for centuries" cancelled the sale and directed that some arrangement should be made with the view of preserving the Estate to the family. The Estate was accordingly attached and retained under Government management for five years. In 1846 the arrears amounted to Rupees 4,60,000, and the Collector entertained no hope of recovering such a large balance. The embarrassed condition of the Estate was ascribed to the Zemindar's reckless extravagance, mismanagement, family dissensions and consequent litigation. The idea of saving the Estate was therefore abandoned as hopeless. It was accordingly sold in 1847 for arrears and purchased by Government for one year's assessment Rupees 1,69,435. Arrears to the amount of Rupees 6,46,893 were remitted and a pension of Rupees 600 a month was granted to the Zemindar although he still retained the estate of Cottam yielding an annual income of Rupees 10,000.

Extract Minutes Consultation, dated 4th January 1842.

Extract Minutes Consultation, dated 4th July 1842.

Extract Minutes of Consultation, dated 2nd December 1846.

Extract Minutes of Consultation, dated 21st September 1847.

16. The previous history of the Peddapur family is this:—

Board's Proceedings, dated 3rd August 1846.

"The family were servants or managers to the Reddywars, Deshmooks or farming landholders. In the year 1734 they were "attainted and cut off." In 1750 the then Amildar

Mamut Ulla Khan for the private consideration of Rupees 90,000 conferred the Zemindari on Royaparauze. This individual was afterwards killed fighting on the side of the French against the British. He left a son Timmarauze eight years old. The corruption of the times, but in what particular way developed is not known, favored the claims of Timmarauze to the succession—Fifth Report, page 665."

17. In view to ascertain the present value of the property formerly comprising the Velampalem Estate as compared with its former value the Collector was directed to submit a Statement showing the average collections of assessment for the five years succeeding the sale compared with the average collections of the last five years, and to state what proportion of the increase may be ascribed to improvement of the sources of irrigation made subsequent to the sale. The statement submitted is defective as owing to the loss of accounts the collections of two villages for the first series of years cannot be ascertained. But as an approximate estimate only is required it may be assumed that the revenue of these two villages has increased in the same ratio as that of the others. Calculating at this rate the average collections of the entire Estate for the first five years, would be Rupees 18,412, which compared with the collections of the last five years, Rupees 30,662, shows an annual increase of Rupees 12,250. The Tahsildar says the whole of the increase is due to irrigation improvements, but the Collector does not believe this. Probably the operations of the Revenue Settlement Department may account for a portion of the increase. The total assets of the estate when held by the Zemindar were Rupees 18,948, which compared with the present revenue shows an annual increase of Rupees 11,714. As mentioned before, on the death of the Zemindar in 1851, petitioner being then a minor the estate was sold for arrears of revenue, Rupees 7,897, and was purchased by Government for Rupees 35,000.

18. Krishna Bramahji Pantulu, adopted son of the late Zemindar, has no claim to a pension as a matter of right but as Government have in similar circumstances dealt liberally with others less deserving and not so much in need of indulgence the Board resolve to submit his application for the favorable consideration of Government with the recommendation that a pension of Rupees 250 a month be granted to him.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with two original enclosures.

Copy to the Acting Collector of the Godavery District.

Exd. G. A. Turton.

4536
10

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 4006.

From Board of Revenue Dated 20 October 1874.

FOR ORDERS.

The Secretary to Govt. Rev. Dept.

Sir,

I am directed by the Board of Revenue to forward herewith a petition from Krishna Bramahji Pantalu, adopted son of late Zemindar of Velampalem, in Godavery District, praying that a pension may be granted to him, and to request that you will submit the petition to Government with the Board's recommendation in favor of a pension of Rs. 250 per mensem being granted to petitioner.

2. The petitioner's case has been carefully investigated by the Board, and they are satisfied that he has no means of subsistence.

3. I am to request that you will move Government to grant the petitioner a pension of Rs. 250 per mensem.

4. The petition is returned herewith.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
[illegible]
Secretary.

Moved thanks Mr [illegible]
Board's Proceedings 23rd
Return the petition & Pass Order!

No. 4006
No. 1706
Revenue 1874. Depte

# Board of Revenue,

## MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 20TH OCTOBER 1874, No. 3,043.

Draft 4 Nov 1874

Encl. 2

Received
No. 1532 - 10 December 1874

OCTOBER.
No. 3,043.

*Petition*—presented by Krishna Bramahji Pantalu, adopted son of late Zemindar of Velampalem, in Godavery District, representing that he has no means of subsistence, and praying that a pension may be granted to him, submitted to Government with Board's recommendation in favor of a pension of Rs. 250 per mensem being granted to petitioner.

For orders

119

23/11/74. R 24/11/74. Rc 4/12/74
c. 25/11/74. R 30/11/74.

a matter of the kind drawn
expectations - It appears that
the prayer has been rejected be-
-fore -

There has been lar-
-ches in the case - but the Pet.
Kind was induced [illegible]
measures taken to keep the
Estate in the hands of the
proprietor - but unsuccess
-fully. and the Estate was sold
in at a price which enables
the family to be rid of all
debt Do. dismiss the Peti-
-tion the prayer

2/11 PM

1532
12

FOR ORDERS.

Cancel be recorded

c 23/11/74. R 24/11/74. RC 4/12/74
RC. 25/11/74. R 30/11/74. R 5/12/74

No. 1532

*PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.*

Under date the 10th December 1874.

READ the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Submitting to Govt petition from the adopted son of the late Zemindar of Vlampalem, Godavery District, praying that a pension may be granted to him. } H. E. 20th October 1874, No 3043.

The Governor in Council observes that the Estate was sold 22 years ago and that the legality of the sale is not questioned.

2 The appeal is made not on any grounds of right but simply because this descendant of a former Zemindar has no means of

J. B. 4/12

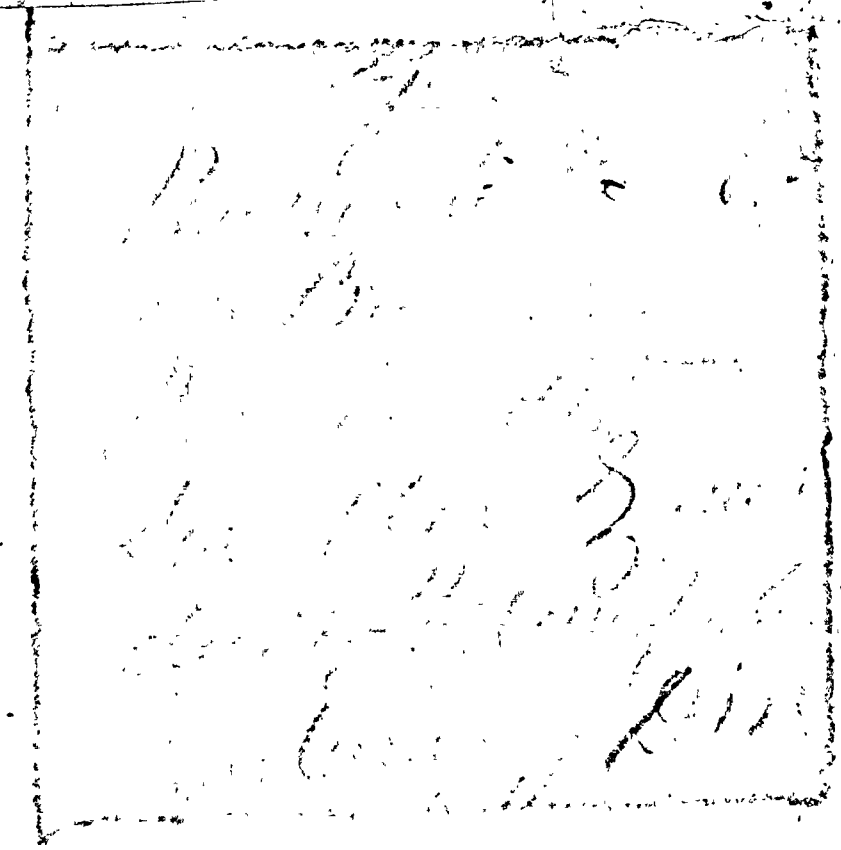
of livelihood.

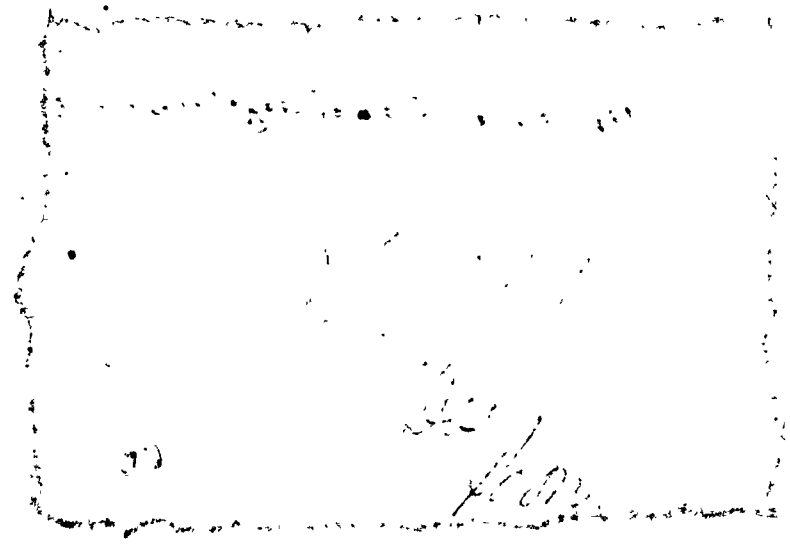
3. His Excellency in Council regrets to disap= =point the expectations which have been raised in the mind of the appli= =cant but he does not consider that sufficient cause has been shewn for the intervention of Govt in the manner proposed.

4. There are doubtless hardships in the case, but it appears that efforts were made on more than one occasion to enable the proprietor to retain his Estate, and eventually it was bought in at a price which freed the family from debt.

5. The Governor in Council considers that the initiative in this case should not have been taken by the local officers without in= =structions from Government

14 Feb 1860 Board of Education





119-120

4/12/24 RSKz