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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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Dated 17-5-1875 196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COURT OF WARDS, dated 23rd April 1875.

Read the following letter from W. McQUHAE, Esq., Collector of Madura, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Court of Wards, dated Ramnad, 10th March 1875, No. 27:—

I HAVE the honor to submit the Special Assistant Collector's report (copy) on the management of the Ramnad Chuttrums in Fasli 1282.

2. There are 31 chuttrums, 29 of which have endowments. There is little requiring special notice in the collection of the revenues of these institutions. The cost of management has been greatly reduced, but the revenue system remains unchanged, only 390 puttass having been issued. Most of the ryots only received "number chits," which are merely cadjans showing on one side the quantity of land actually cultivated and on the other the payments made. Throughout the Zemindari it is found impossible to compel the ryots to adopt the system of holdings, and they have obtained decisions in their favor on this point under Act VIII. of 1865. It is said to be the custom of the country that they should only pay for land actually cultivated, and in the case of nunja land held on the waram system this custom is sufficiently evident. I cannot, however, admit that the ryots have any right to occupy land which they neither cultivate nor pay for, and the question must be settled by further litigation. That there may be no mistake as to the right claimed by a Ramnad ryot, I may mention that he will enclose a field with an impervious thorn-fence, keep it in his exclusive possession, and refuse to pay anything except for such portions as he cultivates. In Paumben Island he even refuses to pay for palmyra and cocoanut trees.

3. The total revenue of the year amounted to Rupees 27,080, of which Rupees 18,540-13-4 were collected within the fasli, and nearly the whole of the balance has been collected subsequently.

4. The arrears, not absolutely irrecoverable at the end of Fasli 1282, amounted to Rupees 15,497-13-9, of which only Rupees 1,144-9-2 were collected before the end of 1874. The balance uncollected at that date is classified as follows:—

	RS.	A.	P.
Irrecoverable	5,011	7	9
Doubtful	3,561	12	1
Recoverable	5,780	0	9
Total ..	14,353	4	7

The Special Assistant Collector has written off the irrecoverable arrears, but I think the chuttrum revenues should be dealt with exactly in the same way as the estate revenues, and request the Court's sanction for striking off these arrears.

5. The nominal balance at the end of the fasli was Rupees 52,894-0-10, but of this Rupees 19,391-7-2 represent the debt due by the late Zemindar, which cannot be recovered till the minor comes of age.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

REPORT.

The Special Assistant Collector deems it necessary to record the result of his management of the chuttrums in the Ramnad Estate and their endowments for the past Fasli 1283.

With reference to the correspondence noted in the margin, the charge of these charitable institutions and their landed inams was taken by the Special Assistant Collector on the 1st of March 1873 with a balance of Rs. 8,579-8-8 in cash remaining to the credit of the institutions, and the uncollected arrears of Rs. 53,160-8-2 due by the ryots.

The chuttrums thus coming under the management of Special Assistant Collector are thirty-one in number, of which the majority (twenty-nine) have endowments.

It will be observed that many of these chuttrums were built by the Sethupathies or the ancient Zemindars of the Ramnad country, and some by their ministers and others, who thereupon placed their management under the Zemindar.

The inams granted by the Zemindars for the support of the institutions consist of entire villages in many cases and fractions of villages in others, making a total of 51⁶¹/₁₆ viz., 50⁶¹/₁₆ Fysal inam villages and the remaining one, being the village of Kodikulom, granted for the maintenance of the chuttrum at Kotapatam since the permanent settlement by Ramasamy Sethupathy in Fasli 1239.

These villages, which are scattered over all the taluqs of the estate, are now under the superintendence of the Tahsildars with the exception of 1¹/₄ now placed in the possession of certain private persons as stated below.

The village of Chitturvadi belonging to the Chuttrum at Ooppur was granted on cowle to one Arunachellum Chetty by Ponnusamy Tever, on the 9th January 1861, for forty years on an annual rent of Rupees 552-3-0, which is equal to the average of four years previous to the grant.

Half of the village of Vyalur belonging to the Rajagopal Chuttrum on the road between Paumben and Rameswaram was granted as cowle to Narayana Pillay and Sivasubramania Pillay of Ramnad by Ponnusamy Tever, on the 17th May 1861, for forty years on the annual Poruppu of Rupees 102-9-4, or Rupees 22-7-0 above the average of four years prior to the grant.

The shameful mismanagement of the deceased Zemindar and his late Manager, Ponnusamy Tever, of these charities and their deplorable condition in consequence are matters so well known, not only to the public in general, but also to the authorities at the Presidency; the Government, in their Order of the 21st March 1871, No. 506, having specially recorded that the formal intervention of the Board of Revenue in the matter of these endowed chuttrums under Regulation VII. of 1817 would become necessary; that the Special Assistant Collector does not think it necessary to recapitulate the unpleasant details here, though some of them have been incidentally noticed in his letter to the Collector noted in the margin.

It will not, however, be out of place to mention here that the cost of the management of the endowments by the Zemindar was so heavy as Rupees 5,578, being 15 per cent. on the revenue of the villages, which has been reduced to Rupees 1,747, the fact being that a host of persons having no claim upon the charities were put upon the chuttrum establishment as a means of providing them with salaries which the late Zemindar did not choose, or was unable to pay from his own private savings.

Soon after taking charge of the chuttrums, the Special Assistant Collector undertook the duty of inspecting personally all the different institutions upon the estate, and the result of his inspection will be noticed in the proper place.

The villages composing the endowments in question were originally assessed on the same principle, and have been invariably under the same system of revenue as the iyen villages of the estate. The settlement of these villages during the year under review has, therefore, been conducted on all the principles prevailing in iyen and under the same forms. A with few exceptions, only

the coarser kinds of paddy are grown in the villages of the estate, and this grain is not suited for the consumption of strangers from other districts, especially the Brahmins from the northern countries, little use is made of the Melwaram paddy, which is disposed of on the ground to the

Number of the puttass actually distributed	Rs. 390
Do. of number chits grants	2,251
Do. of the cases in which collections were made without either puttass or number chits...	153
Total...	2,793

ryots on the principles noticed in the Iyen Jamabandy Report. The figures marginally noted show the poor result of the arrangement, made by the Special Assistant Collector for the exchange of puttass and muchilkas, the observations made by him on the subject in paragraph 2 of his Jamabandy Report in regard to the iyen villages being equally applicable to the chuttrum villages also.

The cultivating season was unfavorable in the year under notice as described in paragraph 4 of the Settlement Report of the estate, causing a decrease in the extent of cultivation, this year in comparison with that of the last one.

	Cultivation in Fasli 1282.	Cultivation in Fasli 1283.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Punja	12,081	10,869	...	1,212
Nunja	2,907	2,223	...	684
Total...	14,988	13,092	...	1,896

The remission of Rupees 305 was found necessary under the head of withered crops, which were carefully examined.

The total revenue of the villages in the year under reference amounts to Rupees 27,080 as particularized below, the decrease of Rupees 10,697 being, of course, the consequence of the adverse season.

	Fasli 1882	Fasli 1283.
	Rs.	Rs. A. P.
1. The Revenue of the Villages under management...	34,030	24,165 8 6
2. Poruppu of the Cowle villages	655	654 13 1
3. Value of Magamai, or fees in grain allowed to the chuttrums from the gross produce	1,939	1,141 2 3
4. Road-cess	1,153	1,119 0 6
Total...	37,777	27,080 8 4

Fasli.	Rs.	Exclusive of road-cess.
1874	28,794	
1275	19,937	
1276	29,777	
1277	28,616	
1278	34,168	
1279	35,996	
1280	32,624	

The revenue of the past ten years is given in the margin for the purpose of comparison, the beriz of Fasli 1282 being the largest on the record.

The collections within the fasli on account of the current demand of the year under review

Iyen Head Accountant, Periana Pillai. It was found that the amount had been collected from ryots and partly remitted to the taluq treasuries and partly disbursed in payment of salaries to the chuttrum servants, &c. The taluq gumastah produced the list of remittance and orders, &c., sanctioning payments for Rupees 2,779-13-2, which was accordingly adjusted, and with respect to the remainder they were ordered to find out, on the taluq records, similar vouchers in support of the charge, &c., on the receipt of which the necessary adjustment will be made.

balance (Rupees 2,755-12-8) a sum of Rupees 553-13-11 is contingent on the settlement of some boundary and other disputes. The Tahsildars have been called upon to report upon these items; the remainder of the balance is scattered over all the taluqs in petty sums now in the course of collection, about which the Tahsildars are continually receiving strict orders. Considering the difficulties caused by the nature of the past season, the Special Assistant Collector was not dissatisfied with these results.

The next item to be noticed is the old arrears remaining uncollected, which extend over a period of 41 years from Fasli 1241 to 1282, amounting to Rupees 1,14,784-8-0. The Special Assistant Collector was, of course, constrained to dismiss from his consideration the arrears prior to Fasli 1280, as they were irrecoverable under the law of limitation and accordingly strikes them off the accounts with much regret at the enormous loss which these charitable institutions have sustained owing to the neglect or mismanagement of the former trustees. The arrears of the subsequent Faslis 1280 to 1282, remaining unrealized at the beginning of the Fasli 1283, are shown in the appended statement with the collections and remissions within the Fasli, &c:—

	Fasli 1280.			Fasli 1281.			Fasli 1282.			Total.		
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
Arrears at the beginning of Fasli	8,706	6	0	6,035	1	10	21,854	11	9	36,596	3	7
Collections within the Fasli...	653	12	9	1,555	14	11	18,604	4	4	20,814	0	0
Remission do.	117	10	7	150	2	6	16	8	9	284	5	10
Total...	771	7	4	1,706	1	5	18,620	13	1	21,098	5	10
Balance...	7,934	14	8	4,329	0	5	3,233	14	8	15,497	13	9
Subsequent collections...	61	15	2	67	13	8	1,014	12	4	1,144	9	2
Balance...	7,872	15	6	4,261	2	9	2,219	2	4	14,353	4	7

It is significant to observe here that during the short period of about three years previous to the demise of the Zemindar the management of these endowments passed into the hands of no less than three different agencies. The endowments were first under the control of the Taluq Tahsildars, and then made over to the Devasthanam Amins, and lastly placed under the superintendence of a special agency employed for the purpose. The Special Assistant Collector would be utterly at a loss to know what was the real object of the sudden and frequent changes so far as the records of the institution might be expected to throw light upon the matter; but, from the numerous instances that have fallen under his observation of similar dealings in connection with the Zemindar's administration of the religious and other charitable funds, it may be briefly stated that it was the result partly of the whims and the fancies of the ministerial officers or other influential persons hanging about the Zemindar and partly of an attempt to provide for the Zemindar's dependents, friends, and relations without, at the same time, any expense to the Zemindar on that account. Whatever may have been the true intention of the constant alterations of system it has unfortunately resulted in the great confusion in the accounts, so that there is now a difference of about Rupees 4,671-4-9 between the account of balance kept in the huzur and those of the taluqs, the deficiency being found on the huzur books. The taluq accounts were sent for with the gumastahs and carefully scrutinized in the huzur under the personal superintendence of the

1281 35,507
1282 37,797
1283 27,080

With road cess. were Rupees 18,540-13-4, leaving a balance of Rupees 8,539-11-0 at the close of the year, which was further reduced by subsequent collections (Rupees 4,672-9-6) up to December 1874 to Rupees 3,867-1-6, a portion of which (Rupees 1,111-4-10) is merely a nominal balance, being the value of the paddy already collected from the ryots and stored in the chuttrum granaries for feeding the travellers and only requiring adjustment in the accounts. Out of the remaining

The arrears of the former years remaining unrealized at the end of December 1874 are classified as follows:—

Items.	Fasli 1280.			Fasli 1281.			Fasli 1282.			Total.		
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
1. Irrecoverable...	3,786	6	5	1,101	9	0	123	8	4	5,011	7	9
2. Doubtful	2,077	14	3	761	0	5	742	13	5	3,561	12	1
3. Recoverable	2,008	10	10	2,398	9	4	1,372	12	7	5,780	0	9
Total...	7,872	15	6	4,261	2	9	2,219	2	4	14,353	4	7

The irrecoverable class is composed of the items shown below, and the Special Assistant Collector sanctions the writing off of these arrears, which amount to Rupees 5,011-7-9:—

Items.	Fasli 1280.			Fasli 1281.			Fasli 1282.			Total.		
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
1. Amount collected from the ryots of Selkuvarputty belonging to the Devipatam Chuttrum and robbed on the road on the 7th January 1871 when in course of remittance from the village to the taluq. A criminal charge was brought against certain supposed robbers, and was dismissed for want of proof	510	0	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	510	0	0
2. The rent improperly charged on the Village Officers' Inams not enjoyed by them	14	13	6	14	13	6	14	13	6	44	8	6
3. Additional assessment charged on the second crop cultivation on certain land contrary to the orders of the late Zemindar	...	...	...	21	8	2	32	3	5	53	11	11
4. Nunja rent improperly charged on the lands beyond the prescribed limits of the waterspread of certain tanks, &c.	1,869	15	3	912	0	7	...	...	...	2,781	15	10
5. Value of damaged paddy	12	15	4	127	9	11	2	0	8	142	9	11
6. Amount collected from the ryots, but not brought to the account, having been spent for paying the hire of the bandies taking paddy to the chuttrum granaries	24	10	6	...	...	...	45	11	3	70	5	9
7. The tax due by Ponnusamy Tever's Estate on the trees in Manaungudy Karan, Muttakone Valasai, and other villages. This is irrecoverable under law, as there was no formal exchange of putta and muchilka. The Tahsildars have been strictly ordered to issue puttas from the current fasli	26	2	11	10	13	6	10	13	1	47	13	6
8. The fish rent due on a salt swamp in the village of Pudumadam, &c., the renter being pauper.	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	0	0	5	0	0
9. Magamai, or fee due by the ryots, irrecoverable under law of limitation	1,313	1	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,313	1	7
10. The tax improperly charged on the trees standing on a madam inam land	14	11	4	14	11	4	12	14	1	42	4	9
Total...	3,786	6	5	1,101	9	0	123	8	4	5,011	7	9

The doubtful class consists of the following items:—

Items.	Fasli 1280.			Fasli 1281.			Fasli 1282.			Total.		
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
1. The Nunja rent charged on the lands occupied by houses which were built a long time ago...	21	1	6	20	6	4	16	9	2	58	1	0
2. Balance due by the ryots of Thalur, Nagarikuthan, Puthumadam, and Peramboorayee, &c., villages, who object to pay the Fysal tax ...	374	11	8	405	13	9	427	13	9	1,208	7	2
3. The tax on the lands forming a subject of a boundary dispute between certain iyen and chuttrum villages ...	15	10	6	27	4	9	6	9	6	49	8	9
4. The difference between the estimated rate of price entered in the Jama-bandy accounts for the paddy in store and that at which it was subsequently actually sold...	685	13	3	...	...	...	86	5	11	772	3	2
5. The amount collected from the ryots, but not brought to the cash accounts, having been received by the former officials in payment of their salaries, &c. ...	980	9	4	307	7	7	185	7	1	1,473	8	0
Total...	2,077	14	3	761	0	5	722	13	5	3,561	12	1

The Tahsildars have been instructed to submit full report on the several items composing this doubtful class, though the disposal of some of the cases in which the ryots raise objections to the payment of the Fysal assessment on the ground that they have been paying at lower rates for about forty years depend on the reply of a reference made to the Collector under date the 12th January 1875, No. 8, in similar cases in the iyen villages.

About half of the recoverable arrears, Rupees 5,780-0-9, is either secured by kararnamahs entered into by the ryots, &c., and by the decrees obtained from the Civil Courts, or from the subject of suits now going on in those Courts.

The remainder is in the course of collection. The financial result of the year under notice is as follows:—

	RS.	A.	P.
Balance in cash to the credit of the institutions at the commencement of the year including the unadjusted advances...	39,094	14	4
Receipts of the year under reference ...	49,049	6	7
Total ...	88,144	4	11
Deduct charges as particularized in the Statement No. 5 ...	35,250	4	1
Balance ...	52,894	0	10

Particulars.			
In the Ramnad Huzur Treasury	23,381	1	6
In the Taluq Treasury	4,563	8	3
Unadjusted advances	24,949	7	1

The whole amount composing the unadjusted advances (save only Rupees 5,557-15-11) was the sum misappropriated by the Zemindar to his private purposes. It will be seen from Government Proceedings, 27th October 1873, No. 1,190. the marginal correspondence that the law Do. do. 13th January 1874, No. 45. officers were of opinion that this cannot be taken as a proper charge on the estate, and that it should only be recovered from the minor when he

comes of age if he is willing to pay it. The excepted sum, Rupees 5,557-15-11, is the balance of advance made for repairs to the chuttrums and to the tanks during the lifetime of the Zemindar. The necessary steps have been taken for their early adjustment.

Faslis.	Receipts.		Charges.	
	RS.	A. P.	RS.	A. P.
1282...	33,469	7 7	40,523	8 11
1283...	49,049	6 7	35,250	4 1

The increase in the receipts is mainly owing to the recovery from the Government of Rupees 6,517-14-3, being the mesne profits of certain chuttrum villages as per the Collector's letter, dated 14th July 1873, No. 1,307, and to the collection of the magamai fees this year, while there was none in the past fasli, the decrease in the charges being principally due to the discontinuance of the unnecessary part of the former establishment.

The next subject of importance to be noticed is the repair to the chuttrum buildings and to the irrigational works. The amount spent in the past year was only Rupees 1,987-8-0, viz., Rupees 1,030-11-3 on the repairs to the tanks and Rupees 956-12-7 on the buildings particularized in the Statement No. 5-A.

An estimate for repairing the chuttrum at Kadugusandai and the tank of the village was sanctioned. As nine-sixteenths of this village belongs to the chuttrum and seven-sixteenths to the mahajanams, they were called upon to contribute their proportionate share of the expense; but, being unable to do this, they have mortgaged all their interest in the lands to the institution until the full amount advanced as their share of the repairs and interest is recovered. Measures have now been taken to carry out the works at once.

The repairs of the chuttrums at Devipatam and Athengarai have already been given on contract and are now in progress.

The construction of a chuttrum at Ooppur on the site of the old one was sanctioned (*vide* Collector's letter, dated 28th January 1875, No. 28), and the work is going on but slowly on account of the difficulty in getting supply of material and the absence of monied and trustworthy contractors.

The Maramut Overseers have been instructed to frame estimates for such irrigational works as may be commenced this year. The Special Assistant Collector intends taking up at first the tanks which are fed by river-channels, and hopes that much work will be turned out in the current year.

All the remarks made by the Special Assistant Collector in paragraph 62 of his Iyen Report on the system of the village and taluq accounts are equally applicable to the chuttrum estate also.

(Signed) J. LEE-WARNER,
Special Assistant Collector.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) T. RAM ROW,
Deputy Collector, for Collector.

With his letter above recorded the Collector submits a copy of his Special Assistant's Report on the management of the Ramnad Chuttrums for Fasli 1283.

2. The Chuttrums under management are 31 in number, of which 29 have endowments, the Inams consisting of 51½ villages, all of which, with one exception, were set apart at the permanent settlement. There appears to have been a decrease in the number of Chuttrums since the date of Mr. McWatters'

report recorded in G. O., 21st March 1871, where the Ramnad Zemindar is stated

Cultivated area.			to be the Trustee of 33 Chuttrums.	
	Fasli 1282.	Fasli 1283.	This should have been explained.	
	RS.	RS.	There was a decrease in the area under	
Punja	12,081	10,869	cultivation and in the demand during	
Nunja	2,907	2,223	the year under report arising from the	
Total...	14,988	13,092	unfavorable nature of the season.	

3. The collections within the year on account of the current demand was Rupees 18,541, leaving a balance of Rupees 8,539 reduced by subsequent collections up to end of December 1874 to Rupees 3,867, of which Rupees 1,111 is stated to be merely a nominal balance. It thus appears that little more than ten per cent. of the current demand is outstanding, a result which may be considered very satisfactory.

4. The old arrears remaining uncollected from Fasli 1241 amount to the large sum of Rupees 1,14,784, of which all but Rupees 36,596 accrued prior to Fasli 1280, and the collection is consequently barred. Of the latter sum Rupees 22,243 have been recovered, leaving a balance of Rupees 14,353 classed as follows:—

	RS.
Irrecoverable	5,011
Doubtful	3,562
Recoverable	5,780
Total...	14,353

The Special Assistant has written off the irrecoverable arrears, but the Court's authority should have been first obtained. Sanction is now accorded.

5. The financial result of the year was as follows:—

	RS.
Balance of cash including unadjusted advances ...	39,095
Receipts of the year	49,049
	88,144
Deduct charges	35,250
Balance...	52,894

Of this sum Rupees 27,945 are in the Huzur and Taluq Treasuries, and the remainder, Rupees 24,949, is the amount of unadjusted advances. Of this latter sum Rupees 5,558 is stated to be the balance of advance made for repairs, for the adjustment of which steps have been taken, and the remainder, Rs. 19,391, is the sum misappropriated by the late Zemindar, which, under the opinion of the law officers, recorded in G. O., dated 13th January 1874, cannot be liquidated during the minority of the present owner.

6. There was an increase of receipts and a decrease of charges as compared with the previous Fasli. It appears that there was a reduction of establishment, by which the cost was reduced from Rupees 5,578 to Rupees 1,747. As the Collector has not, however, forwarded the statements received from the Special Assistant, details cannot be ascertained. In future statements in the prescribed form should accompany the report.

7. The maramut expenditure amounted to Rupees 1,988, of which Rupees 1,031 was on repairs to irrigation works and Rupees 957 on repairs of buildings. Considering the neglect of former years, the outlay under this head appears to have been very scant.

8. With regard to the occupation of land by the ryots which they neither cultivate nor pay for, it appears from paragraph 72 of Mr. Bliss' report recorded in G. O., dated 13th June 1871, that the question has been carried to the highest Court of Appeal and decided in the ryots' favor. If the right has been thus established, it cannot now be restricted. The Court observe that a report on the subject was called for in paragraph 8 of the Court's Proceedings, dated 26th March 1874, No. 680, but has not been submitted as yet.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Chatter
Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Secretary of Madras
Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Ed. J. W. Fischer.

210646

Revenue 1875. *de pte*

Court of Wards,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 23RD APRIL 1875, No. 1,008.

Supd's May/75

Encl.

Recd 4: May

APRIL
No. 1,008.

Chuttrams—in Rannad Estate, under charge of Court of Wards, in Madura District.—Report of Special Assistant Collector on the management of— for Fasil 1283 reviewed, and sanction accorded to write off certain irrecoverable arrears. Explanation requested with regard to certain points in connection with the subject.

Recd 1.

1875-17 May/75

8525

To the Board of Revenue, Madras

1875-17 May/75