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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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

1282

Press
Mis.

Dated 25.8.1975 196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 253. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 29th July 1875, No. 2,124 :—

Read the following letter from W. LOGAN, Esq., Acting Collector of Malabar, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Calicut, 7th July 1875, No. 222.

I HAVE the honor to forward herewith copy of a letter received from the Acting Special Assistant Collector of this district, bringing to notice the inadequacy of the pay allowed to the two peons specially employed in the collection of revenue in the Attapadi valley lying in the Arakurishi Amshom of the Walluvanad Taluq.

2. The Special Assistant Collector gives a very graphic account of the hardships these men have to undergo in visiting this remote and feverish tract. The picture is not at all overdrawn, and when the present rate of salary is considered there can be no doubt at all that the men *must* levy contributions from the villagers or starve. Mr. Winterbotham shows very forcibly from his own experience that the villagers are in the habit of being plundered.

3. To remedy this, he proposes that the pay of these men be increased to Rupees 7 each, and that the Adhigiri of Arakurishi, who is now in the receipt of an extra remuneration of Rupees 2 per mensem for supervising the work of these peons, be allowed an increase of 1 Rupee, while the Menon of that Amshom be allowed 2 Rupees a-month for the additional work that devolves upon him in connection with the collection of revenue in this locality.

4. I concur with the Acting Special Assistant Collector so far as the increase of pay to the peons and the allowance to the Menon are concerned, but I do not think that the allowance paid to the Adhigiri need be raised. To a man of his position an extra rupee a-month is not worth considering.

5. If this proposal is sanctioned, as I strongly recommend, the collection of revenue in this tract would cost the State an annual sum of Rupees 216 as

	Rs.
Two Peons at Rupees 7	14
Allowance to Adhigiri...	2
Do. to Menon	2
18 x 12 =	216

marginally noted, or Rupees 132 in excess of the present annual expenditure. The former sum is a little over 50 per cent. of the revenue derived from the Attapadi valley. The outlay can be met from the surplus balance

the credit of the village service fund of this district, which now amounts to Rupees 38,000.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From H. M. WINTERBOTHAM, Esq., Acting Special Assistant Collector, to W. LOGAN, Esq., Acting Collector of Malabar, dated Maliapuram, 23rd June 1875, No. 216.

THE recent death of one of the two peons employed to collect revenue in the Attapadi valley has necessitated the appointment of a new man to the post, and affords a fitting opportunity to bring to your notice the urgent grounds that exist for raising their pay so as at least to equal the earnings of a common cooly.

2. There is no occasion to dwell upon the natural features of the valley, because they are well known to you. It is sufficient to state that, in order to reach the valley from Malabar, a precipitous mountain-side has to be scaled; a torrent has to be six times forded or swam, and when

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
25th August 1875.*

the valley is at last reached, an ordinary Malabar native will be prostrated within a week by a malignant jungle fever.

3. In this agreeable region there are seventy-nine villages of Malayar, Irular, Panier and other jungle tribes, who pay an annual assessment of nearly Rupees 400 to Government.

4. To collect this revenue two peons are employed on Rupees 2-8-0 a-month each, and for supervising them the Arakurishi Adhigiri draws Rupees 2 per mensem in addition to his ordinary pay.

The entire expenditure on account of the valley is thus Rupees 84 per annum.

5. There are no roads, no schools, no hospitals, no vaccination, and, with rare exceptions, no administration of justice. The inhabitants of the valley get fever when they leave it, just as other people do when they enter it, and this, combined with their timidity and superstition, practically prevents them from descending to the plains.

6. The peons who collect the revenue are the only Government servants with whom the majority of the villagers ever come in contact, and it is surely no imaginary evil that the pay of these peons should be such as they cannot by any possibility subsist upon.

7. I have twice been throughout the length and breadth of the valley, and have visited many of the villages. On the approach of a stranger, men, women, and children hide themselves in the jungle, leaving their huts to the mercy of the intruder.

When a man has been captured, and his fears allayed, he will recall the villagers, and they will then produce from their hiding places fowls, eggs, milk, and grain in sufficient quantities. Nothing can more forcibly show that they are accustomed to be plundered.

8. The pay of a common cooly at Manarghant ranges from 3 to 4 Annas a-day. The two peons who have to traverse all parts of this unhealthy and much-dreaded valley, who must be able to read and to swim, to bear hunger, cold, fatigue and fever, receive a remuneration of

indignation, when he finds grounds for suspecting that the peons eke out their insufficient pay by small "benevolences" exacted from the villagers?

Their work is extremely arduous, and their remuneration is a little more than half what a prisoner in a subsidiary jail receives as a subsistence allowance!

9. I trust you will see fit to recommend to the Board of Revenue that their pay may be raised to Rupees 7 a-month, that the Adhigiri's extra allowance be raised to Rupees 3 a-month, and the Arakurishi Menon be paid an extra allowance of Rupees 2 a-month.

Both the Adhigiri and Menon have to visit the valley several times in the year, and on such occasions must carry their supplies of food with them from the plains, and put up with almost as much hardship as the peons.

10. The annual cost of the establishment, as I recommend, it would be—

	RS.
Two peons, at Rs. 7	168
Adhigiri, at " 3	36
Menon, at " 2	24
Total	228

The cost of collection would thus amount to more than 50 per cent. of the revenue; but it must be remembered that the Adhigiri, Menon, and peons are the only persons whom the villagers have to look to as arbitrators in petty disputes, and as a medium of communication with the Tahsildar and divisional officer.

The collection of the revenue is thus only a part, and perhaps not the most important part, of the work they have to perform.

(True Copy)

(Signed) W. LOGAN,
Acting Collector.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
25th August 1875.*

SUBMITTED for the favorable consideration of Government.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Acting Secretary.

No. 254. ORDER THEREON, 25th August 1875, No. 1,282.

Miscellaneous.

THE increased pay proposed by the Acting Collector for the Arakurishi Amshom Establishment is sanctioned.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. MACGREGOR,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Accountant-General.

Exd. W. J. Lewis.

1282
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No. 2,124.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 29th July 1875.

Read the following letter from W. LOGAN, Esq., Acting Collector of Malabar, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Calicut, 7th July 1875, No. 222:—

I HAVE the honor to forward herewith copy of a letter received from the Acting Special Assistant Collector of this district, bringing to notice the inadequacy of the pay allowed to the two peons specially employed in the collection of revenue in the Attapadi valley lying in the Arakurishi Amshom of the Wallavanad Taluq.

2. The Special Assistant Collector gives a very graphic account of the hardships these men have to undergo in visiting this remote and feverish tract. The picture is not at all overdrawn, and when the present rate of salary is considered there can be no doubt at all that the men *must* levy contributions from the villagers or starve. Mr. Winterbotham shows very forcibly from his own experience that the villagers are in the habit of being plundered.

3. To remedy this, he proposes that the pay of these men be increased to Rupees 7 each, and that the Adhigiri of Arakurishi, who is now in the receipt of an extra remuneration of Rupees 2 per mensem for supervising the work of these peons, be allowed an increase of 1 Rupee, while the Menon of that Amshom be allowed 2 Rupees a-month for the additional work that devolves upon him in connection with the collection of revenue in this locality.

4. I concur with the Acting Special Assistant Collector so far as the increase of pay to the peons and the allowance to the Menon are concerned, but I do not think that the allowance paid to the Adhigiri need be raised. To a man of his position an extra rupee a-month is not worth considering.

5. If this proposal is sanctioned, as I strongly recommend, the collection of revenue in this tract would cost the State an annual sum of Rupees 216 as marginally noted, or Rupees 132 in excess of the present annual expenditure. The former sum is a little over 50 per cent. of the revenue derived from the Attapadi valley. The outlay can be met from the surplus balance at

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Two Peons at Rupees 7	14
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18 x 12 =	216

the credit of the village service fund of this district, which now amounts to Rupees 38,000.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From H. M. WINTERBOTHAM, Esq., Acting Special Assistant Collector, to W. LOGAN, Esq., Acting Collector of Malabar, dated Malapuram, 23rd June 1875, No. 216.

THE recent death of one of the two peons employed to collect revenue in the Attapadi valley has necessitated the appointment of a new man to the post, and affords a fitting opportunity to

Bopt. of 1875: 27th Nov.

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

No. 263-264.

AUGUST.

G.O., 26th August 1875, No. 1,282.

Dated August, 25th.

Recd.

Sent.

Peons and others on the Establishment of the Arakurishi Amshom in the Malabar District.—Sanctioning the proposed increase to the pay of the

bring to your notice the urgent grounds that exist for raising their pay so as at least to equal the earnings of a common cooly.

2. There is no occasion to dwell upon the natural features of the valley, because they are well known to you. It is sufficient to state that, in order to reach the valley from Malabar, a precipitous mountain-side has to be scaled; a torrent has to be six times forded or swam, and when the valley is at last reached, an ordinary Malabar native will be prostrated within a week by a malignant jungle fever.

3. In this agreeable region there are seventy-nine villages of Malayar, Irular, Panier and other jungle tribes, who pay an annual assessment of nearly Rupees 400 to Government.

4. To collect this revenue two peons are employed on Rupees 2-8-0 a-month each, and for supervising them the Arakurishi Adhigiri draws Rupees 2 per mensem in addition to his ordinary pay.

The entire expenditure on account of the valley is thus Rupees 84 per annum.

5. There are no roads, no schools, no hospitals, no vaccination, and, with rare exceptions, no administration of justice. The inhabitants of the valley get fever when they leave it, just as other people do when they enter it, and this, combined with their timidity and superstition, practically prevents them from descending to the plains.

6. The peons who collect the revenue are the only Government servants with whom the majority of the villagers ever come in contact, and it is surely no imaginary evil that the pay of these peons should be such as they cannot by any possibility subsist upon.

7. I have twice been throughout the length and breadth of the valley, and have visited many of the villages. On the approach of a stranger, men, women, and children hide themselves in the jungle, leaving their huts to the mercy of the intruder.

When a man has been captured, and his fears allayed, he will recall the villagers, and they will then produce from their hiding places fowls, eggs, milk, and grain in sufficient quantities.

Nothing can more forcibly show that they are accustomed to be plundered.

8. The pay of a common cooly at Manarghaut ranges from 3 to 4 Annas a-day. The two peons who have to traverse all parts of this unhealthy and much-dreaded valley, who must be able to read and write, to swim, to bear hunger, cold, fatigue and fever, receive a remuneration of 1 Anna and 4 Pie per diem.

How, under these circumstances, can the officer in charge of the division muster up a virtuous indignation, when he finds grounds for suspecting that the peons eke out their insufficient pay by small 'benevolences' exacted from the villagers?

Their work is extremely arduous, and their remuneration is a little more than half what a prisoner in a subsidiary jail receives as a subsistence allowance!

9. I trust you will see fit to recommend to the Board of Revenue that their pay may be raised to Rupees 7 a-month, that the Adhigiri's extra allowance be raised to Rupees 3 a-month, and the Arakurishi Menon be paid an extra allowance of Rupees 2 a-month.

Both the Adhigiri and Menon have to visit the valley several times in the year, and on such occasions must carry their supplies of food with them from the plains, and put up with almost as much hardship as the peons.

10. The annual cost of the establishment, as I recommend, it would be—

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Two peons, at Rs. 7 2/3	168
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Total	228

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The cost of collection would thus amount to more than 50 per cent. of the revenue; but it must be remembered that the Adhigiri, Menon, and peons are the only persons whom the villagers have to look to as arbitrators in petty disputes, and as a medium of communication with the Tahsildar and divisional officer.

The collection of the revenue is thus only a part, and perhaps not the most important part, of the work they have to perform.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. LOGAN,
Acting Collector.

SUBMITTED for the favorable consideration of Government.

(True Copies and Extract.)

H. Pitman
Acting Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Copy to the Collector of Malabar.

Erd. W. J. Lewis.

17 Aug 1875 P.O. 25 Aug 1875

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The increase ^{has} proposed by the act of Collector for the Arakurithe ameham estate to meet is sanctioned.

25 Aug 1875

25 Aug 1875

14 Sole Boarding Office 8 Sept 1875

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Rev. 1875: 346
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1875.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 29TH JULY 1875, No. 2,124.

29th Aug 1875
Encl.

Received 13. Aug 75

JULY.
No. 2,124.

Peons and certain other persons—employed in collecting revenue in Atapathi valley in Walluvand Taluq, Malabar District.—Recommendation of Collector in favor of Special Assistant Collector's proposal to raise the pay of—, submitted for favorable consideration of Government.

Do 1875-25 Aug 1875—
with notes