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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

DEPARTMENT

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
14th December 1876.*

No. 317. Read the following letter from J. MILLER, Esq. Barrister-at-law, to the Honorable D. F. CARMICHAEL, Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Madras, 29th November 1876:—

On behalf of my client, Strimulhee Moothoo Vizia Regunada Rami Kattama Natchee, Zemindari of Shivagunga, in the Madara District, I have the honor to lay the following circumstances before His Grace the Governor in Council, and to solicit at His Grace's hands the very great boon that my client may be allowed time till the end of April next to pay up the balance of peishash due on the Zemindari for fasli 1285, and farther time up to the end of 1877 to pay up the peishash of fasli 1286: the former ought to have been paid at the end of June 1876, and the latter will be due at the end of June 1877.

The consideration which the Zemindari seeks does not arise from unwillingness on her part to pay the Government dues, but from temporary inability, which she trusts the following statement will satisfactorily demonstrate.

3. The Government is aware that the Zemindari was usurped, and that the Zemindari's step-mother and subsequently the Zemindari herself entered into a most protracted and expensive course of litigation to recover it. The litigation lasted from 1832 to 1864, or for thirty-two years, and even after the Zemindari had come into possession in 1864 she had to defend another suit, decided in 1866, for the Zemindari, which went up in appeal to the Privy Council. Again, in 1869, she had to defend another suit against her son and verse to establish the right of succession after his decease. This case also went before the Privy Council.

4. All the above proceedings may easily be conceived cost the Zemindari enormous sums of money, and as a matter of fact involved her in debt to a large amount; and the Zemindari begs His Grace's particular attention here to the point that all the litigation was forced upon her, and that her debt became due not on account of her extravagance, but simply because she naturally desired to obtain and to keep in possession that which absolutely and indisputably belonged to her.

5. The Zemindari further begs to draw His Grace's attention to the fact that the Zemindari was in the hands of the usurpers, they alienated Zemindari lands worth about fifteen lakhs of rupees, and that the Zemindari's claim to the villages being about to be barred by the Statute of Limitation, she has been obliged to expend about Rs. 50,000 in stamps, and to maintain the necessary suits in the local Courts for their recovery.

6. The Zemindari having been in litigation, the usurpers previously to 1864 also most seriously neglected the irrigation, and the Zemindari has in consequence been obliged during the last two years to expend about Rs. 70,000 in repairing the injury inflicted, and she still has to lay out about two or three lakhs of rupees towards the same object.

7. After the Zemindari came into possession in 1864 she leased the Zemindari for ten years, but the lessee also seriously neglected the tanks and channels of the estate.

8. In 1875 there was a failure of harvest in the Vagay which resulted in distress and emigration, and as the seasons from July to December collections were retarded. There has also been little or no rain since November, and the crops have withered in many places, the Zemindari will have to make large and necessary remissions.

9. Being desirous also of having her estate (about 1,600 square miles in extent) surveyed and demarcated, the Zemindari is prepared to expend about three lakhs of rupees, the cost estimated by the Survey Department for the purpose; and she has already undertaken to advance Rs. 20,000 during the years 1876 and 1877.

10. Owing to the difficulties of her position, the Zemindari on the 18th December last requested the Collector to grant her five months' time to pay up the arrears of peishush for fash 1284, and the first four instalments for fash 1285; but that officer having refused the request and misused the Zemindari much and repeatedly, and information having been received that proceedings were to be taken against the Zemindari's movable property, she was driven to the necessity of borrowing money at a high rate of interest and with discount, and of selling her mailvarum grain at a low price to wholesale-dealers, by which means and with great damage to herself she cleared off the whole of the arrears of fash 1284, and has paid up to the Collector of her dues for fash 1285. The balance against her at present being Rupees 1,10,343-1-6.

11. In begging that His Grace will view the foregoing unfortunate circumstances with a spirit of kindness, the Zemindari deems it her duty to place before His Grace the fact that with a debt of Rs. 11,00,000 at the end of 1873 when the dues of the Zemindari expired, and with the enormous amount she has had to pay away, she has still been able by the end of 1875 to reduce her debt to Rs. 6,00,000-2-8; and she afterwards so efficiently whatever she was able to clear off even this amount within two or three years, if His Grace's Grace would but give her some timely aid by allowing her to temporarily divert the revenue of the Zemindari, for the pressing which the Zemindari feels is not that of the debt itself, but of the heavy and accumulating interest of 12 per cent. and the necessity for paying large premia whenever she has to borrow money, especially from the usual dealers, the Nattukottai Chetties.

12. The amount due by the Zemindari to Government for fash 1285 is Rs. 3,14,89-1-1 of this Rs. 2,58,016-14-0 is the first peishush. The Galt-rent amounts to Rs. 30,000-0-0 and the Head tax to Rs. 26,875-0-0. These two latter sums are not only additional to the peishush assessment, but they have to be collected in very small sums from numerous landlords and Ryots. The difficulty experienced in making these collections—in a country where the Ryots are generally poor and very numerous; but in addition thereto it is impossible to make the whole of the collections before the expiration of the fash, and hence the Zemindari is compelled, for her own safety, to pay the Government due in the first instance from her own resources.

13. The Zemindari trusts she has said enough to show that her position is one of real difficulty and she cannot but believe that a just and righteous Government—a Government alive to the welfare of the limited aristocracy of the country—will extend its sympathy towards her. She trusts to the justice of her ability to be a worthy proprietor of the estate, but she nevertheless feels a measure of temporary help. It is believed that the Government will not so much as obstruct her in the future with her own private property, and hence the present distress and sorrow. She does not ask for any compensation for dues which she would have to pay, such compensation towards her debts, but she does ask from the Government of assistance towards her present and future money, and proposes which promise by making an immediate increase to

her dues to Government, and fetters her action in the improvement both of her estate and the condition of her tenants.

14. Speaking specifically, the Zemindari will have at the end of the current year no more than a balance of Rs. 75,000 to pay towards the peishush, &c., of 1285. She pleads that she may be allowed to pay this up, with interest at 6 per cent., within the end of April 1877. She further pleads that she may be allowed till the end of 1877 to pay up the peishush of 1286, with interest at 6 per cent., after June 1877, the latter being the month within which the payment should be made. In other words, the Zemindari begs that the Government will allow her the use of the money which will be due, without the premia and the extra 6 per cent. interest demanded by private individuals.

15. Such an act of generosity the Zemindari begs to submit will not be misplaced, and it will be of incalculable advantage to her, for she will be enabled to devote the money, with other resources of her own, towards liquidating the debt which is pressing upon her. That the Government will lose by the transaction cannot for a moment be imagined; for not only will there be an accumulation of the 6 per cent. interest, but the estate itself will act as the best possible security for the discharge of the Government claim. The estate is worth about a crore of rupees, and it is but reasonable to suppose that rather than risk the loss of such a property, the Zemindari will spare no effort to meet the engagement she may be allowed to make.

16. Irrespective however of the fact of her indebtedness the Zemindari seeks the lenient treatment of Government on the ground of the very adverse season which has been experienced. The kists of fash 1286 commence from the end of the current month, and from that time to the end of June 1877 the Zemindari will become responsible to Government for a little over three lakhs of rupees. To collect so large an amount will be a matter of the greatest difficulty, for famine is threatening the land. There has been a failure of rain with much sickness, the prospects of the crop of next year are very gloomy; and as a natural result of these untoward circumstances, the ryots on the estate are certain to emigrate, in large numbers, to Ceylon. His Grace is aware that a state of things such as that depicted has invariably been followed by remissions in the case of the ryots of Government; but the Zemindari by no means wishes it to be understood that she seeks an abatement of the Government demand. She is prepared to meet her obligations in full, to meet them as she has met them for the last thirteen years; but she still pleads for a little time which will, to herself at least, be profitable of no mean advantage.

17. Finding that the Collector had refused the moderate request she had made, the Zemindari petitioned the Board of Revenue on the subject, and she regrets exceedingly to state that that body also passed a decision adverse to her. Even the slight request she made to the Board to be allowed to pay her peishush by Houndies on Madurai—a privilege allowed her for the two years previous—was denied her; and the Zemindari has now either to run the risk of transmitting a sum of over three lakhs to Madurai, or to procure Houndies at 12 per cent.

18. In conclusion, the Zemindari cannot but point out, in every submission, that the Revenue law of the country acts prejudicially on her as situated as she is. Speaking for herself, she does not descend from an ancient and honorable house; and being also the proprietor of an important and valuable estate, it is absolutely necessary that her dignity should be maintained. Under the action of

The Revenue law, however, she receives no better treatment than the meanest ryot of Government; for if the latter is prosecuted and dispossessed of either movable or land on his first failure to meet the claim of Government, she is liable to receive the same treatment. The Zemindar, here, is not questioning the principle, that in the eye of the law all people are equal; but what she thinks is not taken into account is, the fact that prosecution and dispossession would mean, in her case, an unusual amount of disgrace, and that considering the value of the property belonging to her, the Government has no right to act as in the case of the ryot who lives but from hand to mouth. Even if circumstances arise to bring her into disagreement with the Revenue authorities, she is completely at their mercy; and her present pecuniary difficulties makes her feel that unless the Government steps forward to protect her, she will have to pass through something more than mortal distress.

19. The Zemindar begs once more to assure His Grace that she has required a little temporary help to tide her over her difficulties; and for such a boon of His Grace's hands she will for ever feel deeply grateful.

Respectfully,
No. 1

From J. E. HOLLIS, Esq., Acting Collector of Madras, to the Revenue of Shrivangana Zemindar, dated Ponnambalam, 14th November 1876, No. 2,073.

I have the honor to acknowledge your petition to the heavy amount of arrears outstanding against the Shrivangana Zemindar. I regret, indeed, that they have not been cleared as yet, notwithstanding the demand made to you on several occasions. I now find it impossible

to allow such large arrears to remain uncleared, and therefore for the last time give you notice that they should be paid off within a week, failing which it will be necessary for me to take legal steps for their recovery.

No. 318. Order in Council, 14th December 1876, No. 2,032.

Land Revenue. This petition will be communicated to the Board of Revenue, with the remark that the Government are desirous of complying with the Zemindar's prayer for an extension of time in paying her arrears for the years 1855 and 1860. The circumstances of her case are peculiar.

The Board will state what concession may properly be made, as an act of exceptional indulgence.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL.

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue,
the Accountant-General.

[Signature]

End. C. E. Deane.

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No 2679

Madras
Collector's Office
(Camp) Secunderabad
16th November 1876

From
The Dy Collector of
Madras

The Receiver of
Shivaganga Zamin

Sir, I have the honor to draw
your particular attention to the heavy
amount of arrears outstanding against
the Shivaganga Zamin

22. 11. 76
The amount due under
G.R. 140 832 Rs 5
a month will
be forwarded for
30,000 Rs which
which will serve
the balance to
Rs 110 832 Rs 5
and we shall be
able to pay within
35,000 Rs before
the end of the
year.

indeed that they have not been cleared
as yet notwithstanding the demand
made to you on several occasions. I
never found it impossible for me
to allow such large arrears to remain
uncollected and therefore for the last
time give you notice that they should
be paid off within a week, failing
which

Witnessed by J. G. Henshall
County Collector

120. 5347/70

To
The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department

On behalf of my best Indian
Mother, Unioy Tumutela Rami Kattanna
Katchas, Yammudam of Annaganga in the
Madras District, I have the honor to lay
the following circumstances before His Grace
the Governor in Council and to solicit at
His Grace's hands the very great favor that
my chief may be allowed time till the
end of April next to pay off the balance
of Pichanki dues and the Government for
July 1865, and further time up to the end
of May to pay off the Pichanki of July 1866.
The former ought to have been paid at the
Government to Government for July 1865
and Government part of the Pichanki
and the latter Pichanki. The latter
amounts to Rs. 1000/- and the
former to Rs. 1000/- and the
latter sum was not only additions

unhappy circumstances

Being desirous also of having
her estate (about 100 square miles in
extent) surveyed and demarcated, the
Government is prepared to expend about
£1000 of public money, the cost estimated by the
Survey Department for the purpose, and
she has already undertaken to advance
£100000 during the years 1896 and 1897.

10. Owing to the difficulties of her
position, the Government on the 1st December
last requested the Collector to grant her
£100000 to be paid up the interest
of her loans for 1896 and the
first four instalments for 1897, but
that Officer having refused the request,
and fearing the Government much and
repeatedly and information having been
received that proceedings were to be taken
against the Government's amicable property,
she was driven to the necessity of borrowing
money at a high rate of interest
and with the result, and of selling her
diamonds and other jewels at a low price to
obtain the money by which means and
by arrangement with the Government
the Government for a little over £100000
at 10% to collect on large an amount
will be a matter of the greatest im-
portance for the Government in the
future. She has been a friend of mine

11. In begging that Her Grace will
under the foregoing unfortunate circumstances
in a spirit of kindness, she of course
does not feel duty to place before Her
Grace the fact that with a debt of £100000
at the end of 1893, when the
line of the Government's expenditure, and even
the enormous amounts she has had to
pay during, she has still been able, by
the end of 1895, to reduce her debt to
£100000, and she apprehends in
difficultly whatever she may be able to clear
off even then cannot within two or three
years, if the Queen's Government would
lend her the money and by allowing
her to do so temporarily about the current
balance of the Government's funds, for the present
which the Government feels is not that
of the debt itself, but of the heavy and
unprofitable interest of 12% per cent and
the necessity for paying large sums
thereon, she has to borrow money
temporarily from the market at a high
rate of interest.

12. The amount due by the
end of June 1896, and the latter will
be due at the end of June 1897.

13. The conditions which the
Government will not agree to pay the
Government on her part to pay the
Government but for temporary assistance
she makes the following statement with

she will be obliged to devote the money
to the other creditors of her own, towards
liquidating the debt which is pressing upon
her. That the Government will lose
by the transaction cannot for a moment
be imagined, for not only
will there be no accumulation of interest
at 6 per cent interest, but the estate itself
will act in the best possible
security for the discharge of the Government
debt. I am sure that it is worth
about an order of 100,000, and it is not
reasonable to suppose that rather
than risk the loss of such a property,
the Government will spare no
effort to make the payment. The only
be allowed to make

I am sure that the Government
will be best understood by the Government
in the present treatment of Government
in the present. The way it was done
which has been so successful. The result
of nearly 1800 commenced from the end
of that current month, and from that
date to the end of June 1891, that
with great damage to herself, she cleared
off the whole of the amount of nearly 1800
and has paid up to date two thirds
of her debt for nearly 1800. The balance
against her is present being
The first month was

20/1/91

into such a brief, the prospects of the
end of next year are very gloomy, and
as a natural result of these unfortunate
circumstances, the Pyots on the Estate are
certain to emigrate, in large numbers
to Canada. The Queen is aware that a
state of things such as that depicted has
invariably been followed by remission
in the case of the Pyots of Government
but this is surrounded by so many
circumstances that it is understood that the
State an statement of the Government
demands. She is prepared to meet her
obligations in full, to meet them as
she has met them for the last
thirteen years, but she only pleads for
a little time which will, to herself
at least, be proof of an immense
advantage.

I am sure that the Collector had
before the meeting request she had made
the Government petitioned the Board of
Revenue on the subject, but she people
sincerely to state that that body also
passed a decision to not to let her
right request she made to the Board to be
allowed to pay her liabilities by instalments
on the same a privilege which her father
had given persons who were in debt
with the Government has now either
and the rights of hereditary action

18
I send from Sheringa to K adma, or
to procure Blondie on K adma
In conclusion the Yemindam
cannot but point out with every
submissiveness, that the Government law of
the country acts prejudicially on persons
situated in the same position for
herself, she claims descent from an
innocent and venerable house, and
being also the Proprietor of an important
and valuable estate, it is absolutely
necessary that her dignity should be
maintained intact. Under the action
of the Government law however she
receives no better treatment than the meanest
of the Government, for if she is liable to
prosecution and imprisonment of course
movable or land she has first failed
to meet the demand of Government, she
is liable to precisely the same treatment
The Yemindam however is not question-
ing the principle that in the eye of
the law, all people are equal, but
what she thinks is not taken into
account is the fact that prosecution
and imprisonment would mean in her
case an immense amount of degradation
that considering the value of the pro-
perty belonging to her the Government
has no right to put her in the same
as the poor who have but few means to

months. Even if circumstances arise so
bring her into disagreement with the
Revenue authorities, she is completely at
their mercy, and her present pecuniary
difficulties makes her fear that unless
the Government steps forward to protect
her she will have to pass through
something more than mere mental
distress.

19
The Yemindam begs once
more to assure His Grace that she
but requires a little temporary help
to tide over her difficulties, and
for such a boon as His Grace is
willing to grant she will feel deeply
grateful.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Obedient Servant
Chamberlain

If we make an exception in
 this case in favor of *Tyrannus*
 we'll not be backward in proposing
 to include *Chondestes*.

1747

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2000-2001

The "Punjab Gazette"

10. 11. 1886
The Board of Revenue
in the Punjab
of the Punjab
of the Punjab

[Signature]

Sh 2052
This petition will be
commenced by the Board of Revenue
into the records that the Govt
are desirous of complying with
the Zamindar's prayer
for an extension of time
in paying her arrears
for Fy 1285 & 1286.

The circumstances of the case
are very exceptional & peculiar.
& the Govt will state what
concession may properly be
made, as an act of exceptional
indulgence.

14 Dec 1886

P. 5. Dec.