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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

25th September 1877, No. 2294.

Hill Tracts—Vizagapatam.

Read the following paper:—

No. 178. *From H. St. A. GOODRICH, Esq., Acting Agent to the Governor of Fort St. George at Vizagapatam, to the Officiating Chief Secretary to Government, dated 4th June 1877, No. 320.*

I have the honor to forward the report of the Agent to the Governor on the condition of the Hill Tracts during the past year.

I have delayed the submission thereof in order that the enclosures might also be submitted. They are—

- I. Detailed Statement of the work during the year of the Civil and Criminal Courts.
- II. Special Assistant's report on his tour with the Conservator of Forests.
- III. Special Assistant's report on his tour in Maleangheri Division of Jeypore.
- IV. Special Assistant's report on his tour in Nowrangapur and the country to the north.
- V. Senior Assistant's report on his tours in Gunapur and Rayaghada of Jeypore.
- VI. Assistant's report on his tour in the Southern Hill Tracts of Gudem, &c.

2. There have been questions of disputed boundary raised between Jeypore and Kalahandi Bustar and Kimedy. The action proposed in each several case will be submitted to Government in separate letters, if orders are called for. No report upon which any settlement of any one of these disputes can be based is yet received.

3. An important matter as yet unsettled is the renewal of the tenancy of the late Narendra Tat Raz of Bissemcuttack to his son and terms of such renewal. This has been made the subject of a separate letter.

4. The Civil and Criminal returns are of no unusual character. The crimes committed are acts of violence to the person in the usual proportion. One case of dacoity was only technically a dacoity; it might be more fairly described as a political demonstration during the excitement in the border resulting from the Bustar rebellion. It was described in paragraph 5 of my last year's Hill Tour Report.

The conduct of the Police has been unfavorably noticed by the Agent on various occasions during the year. In November last in Maleangheri certain constables appear to have been the ringleaders in the case of many brutal treatment of women suspected of witchcraft, one of whom was murdered. The Agent, Mr. Melville, convicted the head of the village of the murder, and I inflicted sentences of transportation for life upon two constables, and Captain Blaxland punished with fine three others whom he did not think it necessary to commit to my Court.

There were 61 original and 2 appeal suits pending at the beginning of, and 151 original and 1 appeal suits filed during the year, making a total of 212 original and 3 appeal suits, and showing a diminution of 96 suits of the former from that of the previous year. Of these the file in the two Courts of Gunapur and Rayaghada alone constitutes nearly a half of the whole number, the cause of which is attributable to the bulk of the trade passing through those taluqs. Of the whole number pending and

instituted, 141 original suits and 2 appeals were disposed of during the year, thus leaving 71 and 1 respectively pending at the close of the year. The suits instituted arose upon debts secured by written engagements and of sums borrowed on oral contracts, &c., those relating to real and personal property being only 12 and 7, respectively.

5. With regard to enclosure IV, I have to remark that the conservancy of certain Jeypore and Hill Madgol forests could be undertaken provided a Forest Officer can be spared. I have written to the Board of Revenue on the subject, and pointed out that I believe his salary might be met by contributions from Government and several Zemindaries, and a copy of my letter is appended to Captain Blaxland's.

With regard to enclosure III, the Taluq of Malcangheri is no doubt, from the signs of civilization noted by Captain Blaxland, feeling the influence of the advance in prosperity of its neighbours. I have requested information regarding the subordinate Diwan's proceedings in settling the taluq. Captain Blaxland's excellent suggestions for the provision of tanks and wells will, I hope, bear good fruit.

Captain Blaxland's remarks on the Abkari in Malcangheri demand separate notice. I have not as yet the materials to give a full explanation of the present system, but I shall describe it and its present results in the District Abkari Report next month. With regard to this subject and the general question of the appointment of heads of villages and the limitations under which they should exercise the powers of Village Magistrates, it had been my desire to make particular inquiries had it fallen to my lot to perform the hill tour. I am unable to make final recommendations until I shall have again visited the country; but the subject when reported on shall be placed before Government as a whole.

6. With regard to enclosure IV, the condition of the Northern Taluqs is all that can be desired. Like Malcangheri, they are still very thinly populated, and if the paths were less difficult their distance even from Koraput must make visits to them infrequent. The Rajah's mutua extend far to the north of lat. 20° and far to the west of long. 82° as the survey (when its results are published) will show. Mr. Ball, of the Geological Survey, has made a tour during the past season through a little explored region, including parts of Jeypore and Bustar as well as much of Chatisgarh, and his report has been promised to me. I procured him the loan of the services of two old Ganjam Sibbendies who had seen much of the country with the Meriah Agency, and they joined him in December at Jonepore.

7. With regard to enclosure V, Mr. Willock's opinion of the firelocks with which the Police are armed is fully shared by me. It would be impossible to make good shooting with those of the pieces which are discharged by the pull of the trigger, and he does not overstate the proportion of missfires. Mr. Willock's high opinion of Inspector Ramanna has been formed on good grounds.

8. I solicit sanction for Rupees 600, being Rupees 200 each for the bungalows at Sirigudi and Rayabiji, the need whereof is pointed out in Mr. Willock's 12th and 13th paragraphs, and for another bungalow which I think much needed at a point between Rayaghada and Bissemcuttack yet to be fixed. If this be done, the Senior Assistant can on an emergency find shelter at all the important stages in this difficult country without carrying tents.

9. Enclosure VI is Mr. Rees' report on his tour in the Gudern Hills. He was able to collect useful information during his visit. Mr. Lushington of the Police accompanied him. The new bungalows which I had built last year are of great use. The hills attached to the Golconda taluq felt the effects of the failure of the north-eastern monsoon, but no serious distress has been experienced even there.

10. The young elephants received from Mr. Wedderburn may be gradually brought into use, and in from four to ten years will be able to carry tents. They will be very expensive animals, costing Rupees 50 per mensem for five years on an average after they arrive before they are of use. In parts of Eastern Bengal in Assam or Burmah, and perhaps on the Western Coast, there would be no great risk of their dying in the interim; here, as in most parts of the Presidency, the risk is great.

I solicit sanction for the expenditure incurred during the tour, Rupees 399-10-5, as per memorandum appended:—

Memorandum of Expenses incurred during the Hill Tour for 1876-77.

	RS.	A.	P.
1. Value of cloths purchased	91	2	0
2. Warm clothing to Deloyets who followed the Agent and his Assistants into the hills	150	6	0
3. Pay of bullockmen and pole-carriers	51	9	4
4. Value of beads, combs, tobacco, &c., for Khonds, &c.	3	4	0
5. Carriage of record and sick dhoolies	00	0	0
6. Paid to the followers of elephants belonging to His Highness the Maharaja of Vizianagram on account of their batta.	9	8	2
7. Cost of medicine given to Government elephants	5	3	5
8. Ready-money presents to Khonds, &c.	20	3	0
9. Sundries	2	6	0
Total	399	10	5

ENCLOSURE A.

From R. J. MELVILLE, Esq., Agent to the Governor of Fort St. George at Vizagapatam, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated 18th January 1877.

I have the honor to forward my report on the annual tour in the Hill Tracts of this district.

2. The stay of the Acting Agent and his establishment in the Hill Tracts was so protracted last year that I thought it advisable to make but a short tour on this occasion.

3. I left Vizianagram on November 23rd, and proceeding by way of Bobbili and Salur, at each of which places I made halts and at the former of which I held a session, I reached Pottinghi on the last day of the month. The state of the crops, in both the Bobbili and Salur Zemindaries, was far better than I had anticipated. I followed the new ghaut from Itikavala to Soonki, and from thence to Pottinghi ascended partly by the old Pachipenta ghaut and partly by the new ghaut, the line of which crosses the old line at several places. Some parts of the new ghaut appeared to me to be rather steep for bandy traffic, but from Rodavala, four miles from the foot to Pottinghi, the line is excellent. Much, however, remains to be done before it will be ready for traffic. Parts of it are now used by Brinjaries, but the first four miles is only a narrow foot trace, and my elephants had to get to Soonki by the old Pachipenta line. A good deal of blasting was going on, and the work seemed to be progressing satisfactorily.

The crop in the Jeypore country had been an average one in spite of a rather scanty monsoon, 55 inches against 125 of the previous season.

3½. On reaching Koraput, the headquarters of the Special Assistant, I received the orders of Government regarding the Proclamation on January 1st, and made up my mind to return from Jeypore by the Petta and Galigonda ghauts, the quickest route, instead of by Narrainpatam, as I had intended.

4. I halted at Jeypore where I held sessions and had an interview with the Maharaja. I pointed out to him the large sums of money which Government were annually expending in his territories, and suggested to him the propriety of his agreeing to pay a fixed sum yearly towards the maintenance and extension of roads. He stated that, owing to the heavy expenses of the previous year, he was unable to contribute anything additional at present, but would talk the matter over with Captain Blaxland and let me know what he was willing to contribute in future years. I would here note that the sum of Rupees 2,000 mentioned in paragraph 6 of Government Proceedings, Judicial Department, dated October 7th, 1876, No. 2064, is not an annual contribution, but portion of a sum of Rupees 6,000 which the Maharaja agreed to pay, at the rate of 2,000 Rupees per annum, for three years towards the construction of the road to Malcangheri. I spoke to him about the widows and illegitimate children of his uncle, the late Chaitan Deo of Nowrangapur. He answered me that they should be treated in all respects as when Chaitan Deo was alive, until he could proceed in person to Nowrangapur when he would provide for their maintenance in a suitable manner. The young Tāt Raja of Bissemcuttack was at Jeypore at the time of my visit having come to pay his respects to the Maharaja on succeeding his father. The Maharaja seemed no longer anxious to have his accounts examined, but expressed his ability to check them himself, adding that if he found any difficulty he would apply to the Agent for assistance. As for financial reasons he had been unable to accept the invitation to attend the Durbar at Delhi, and the notice was too short to allow of his coming to Waltair; he promised to celebrate the event in a suitable manner in his own chief town. On

leaving Jeypore I returned by forced marches *via* Golconda and Vizianagram to headquarters, which I reached on December 16.

5. The elephants I took with me, two tuskers recently purchased by Mr. Goodrich, did their work well. The cow and mukhna received from Travancore will, I think, turn out useful animals. I was unable to put the three elephants just received from Coimbatore to any real work owing to their extreme youth. They may possibly be of use six or seven years hence.

6. Before concluding I would bring to notice that the whole of the grant, Rupees 15,000, for roads and jungle-clearing was in the year under report allotted to certain roads in the Special Assistant's Division, Jeypore, instead of being as usual placed at the disposal of the Agent who has hitherto allotted it in such proportions as he thought necessary between the Special, Principal, and Senior Assistant Agents. The consequence of this has been that the Divisions of the two last-named officers have remained without allotments. If this be done again the roads which have to be cleared from jungle after each monsoon in the Principal and Senior Assistant's Divisions will become overgrown, and it will cost much to reclear them. I would suggest that, in future, the former system be reverted to, and that it be left to the Agent to allot the grant for roads and jungle-clearing in such proportions as he may consider necessary. The fact that the grant is as much for jungle-clearing as for making roads in Jeypore seems to have been lost sight of.

The detailed statements of the operations of the Civil and Criminal Courts will be appended to this letter by my successor.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Captain J. S. BLAXLAND, Acting Special Assistant Agent, Vizagapatam, to the Agent to the Governor of Fort St. George at Vizagapatam, dated Poreh, 16th February 1877, No. 26.

I have the honor to report having accompanied Lieutenant-Colonel Beddome, the Conservator of Forests, during his tour through Jeypore in accordance with orders contained in the G.O., No. 2120, dated 21st December 1876. I met him at Semlaguda on January 9th, and started with him next day *via* Nandapore, Sogooroo, Badigada, and Jangara to Kodalumgoomah. There I was detained by some magisterial work, but I sent him for a tour to Mattli and Chapaupali to see some Sal forests there.

2. After his return I marched him to Kondacombaroo to see the forests there, and then marched to Mulcangheri and from thence made Moat in seven days, where I left him with his Assistant from the Godavery. He came up without any definite scheme of what he wanted to see, or what places he wished to visit. He merely informed me that he could not spend much more than a month in Jeypore, and wished to visit the places mentioned by Mr. Turner to Government. So I planned the trip now finished, as a visit to the forests to the north of the district was not feasible. Colonel Beddome expressed his opinion that the forests on the Pottinghi ghaut slopes and all along the edge of that plateau had all been cut and were at the outside only forty or fifty years' growth, and that the forest at Nandapore was not so old. Those at Badegada and all down the valley of the Sileru had very few patches of jungle as old as fifty years, although there were some small patches of virgin forest. The Sal at Mattli seemed to please him most, and he also saw a teak forest at Sikapilli; but he states that all that interminable jungle between Kondacombaroo and Mulcangheri and Moat has been so often cut over and burnt that it would take more than a century to recover itself if ever it did so at all. He was disappointed at not finding teak at Moat.

3. Whilst accompanying Colonel Beddome, I made inquiries everywhere about the crops, and found that most of the second crops along the immediate line of ghauts adjoining Vizagapatam had failed, but that the greater part of the first crops had been saved; that all along the plateau the season had been a very usual one, and no complaints were made until I got to the very south of Mulcangheri, where rice and cholam crops have suffered much; first by the monsoon coming on very late and so preventing the seed from being sown; then by its coming down in very unusual downpour which damaged the standing grain, and then by its ceasing altogether before the ryots had calculated on. The jonna crop on which the inhabitants almost entirely depend for food has been a fairly good one, and there was a cholam crop ripening at nearly every village I visited. The report from the Godavery that rice was being imported into Jeypore country, and ryots bolting from it and cattle dying, probably originated from my Mathi Jemadar having imported over Rupees 700 of rice to feed gangs of coolies collected for the roadwork last January. The ryots very much objected to being asked to help on the road, and so bolted out of the district, but are coming back again, and I hear that about a hundred head of cattle died out of some (so I am told) 5,000 driven over to feed in Mulcangheri pastures from the Godavery District. There has been also some disease among the village cattle, which I am inquiring about, and will report shortly.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From H. Sr. A. GOODRICH, Esq., Acting Collector of Vizagapatam, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Setharampuram, 20th April 1877, No. 413.

In forwarding Lieutenant-Colonel Beddome's report on the forests of the Malcangheri taluq, I submit, for the Board's consideration, some remarks of Mr. Willock's, which I endorse, on the forests of the Rayaghada and Gunapur taluqs.

2. There is some good mixed forest in the Nowrangapur taluq of Jeypore and also in Panchipenta and Hill Madgol; these, however, as well as the most part of Golconda, are very difficult of access.

3. The Gunapur Valley leads to the best virgin Sal forest which I have ever seen, that of Shubernageri. Near Mahasinghi and Baloguda (Ganjam) there was a tract of good Sal, but Captain Pickance and I cut all the best trees for use in bridges and buildings ten years ago.

4. With regard to the appointment of a Forest Officer, the Maharaja would consent to defray a part of the cost, perhaps a quarter; he would be most unwilling to bear the whole cost.

5. If Pachipenta and Madgol fall under Government management their care and that of Golconda would be a reasonable charge for a Forest Officer, and to them may be added the hills of Kasipur belonging to Vizianagram. One-sixth of the officer's pay might fairly be debited to Jeypore (on account of Malcangheri), Madgol, Panchipenta, Vizianagram, and Government (on account of Golconda); the Salur forests might also fall into the range.

6. The forests of Kotipad, Koraput, and Nowrangapur I do not believe to be worth preserving; those of Rayaghada and Gunapur would form a convenient charge if joined to Kimedy. These are most important to Government, as diminishing the danger of violent and sudden floods in the rivers which irrigate Palconda, much of Bobbili and Chipurpalli, and all Chicacole. An officer of some position would be needed to deal effectively with the Oriya and Khond Chiefs, and with the Soucars who now hold the trade of that country in their hands.

P.S.—I will send a map to illustrate Lieutenant-Colonel Beddome's letter and these remarks.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From Captain J. S. BLAXLAND, Acting Special Assistant Agent, to the Agent to the Governor of Fort St. George at Vizagapatam, dated Koraput, 14th March 1877, No. 38.

In continuation of my letter, No. 26, I have the honor to report on my tour through Malcangheri.

2. As reported in that letter, I left Colonel Beddome at Moat and returned to Anantapilli on February 9th; from Anantapilli I visited Wullampilli, Podai, Irvanpilli, and Sukapilli, and reached Malcangheri on the 22nd. I found the villagers inhabiting this district to the south of Malcangheri greatly improved since I first visited them in 1869 with Mr. H. G. Turner. I do not think a single village was deserted on account of our visit, and we had no trouble in procuring coolies and persuading them to come with us. Another improvement was that they seemed to know how much they were each to receive in wage, and exacted it too, if any of our followers tried to pay half a wage for half a load. They are a miserable lot of creatures compared to the inhabitants of other taluqs. Unaccustomed to work they could only carry half such a load as a Nundapore cooly would run under, and their custom of daily chewing a pill of opium is most enervating. However, they are improved as they did come to carry loads, and moreover I do not think there has been as much chopping and changing of village-sites for the last two or three years as there used formerly to be.

3. Leaving Malcangheri on the 26th, I marched by the new road to Govindapalli and reached Jeypore on March 5th. The inhabitants of the country north of Malcangheri are mostly Ooriyas and a very different lot of men from those to the south.

4. *The Road.*—The road from Moat to Malcangheri may now be said to be defined, but is only made in parts. There has been great difficulty in getting the villagers to work at it. From Moat for about twelve miles there is a made road, and opposite the different villages there are small lengths of road made which may aggregate twelve miles. The whole distance is about sixty miles, and the jungle is cleared for the whole distance. Rupees 4,607 has been altogether spent on this portion. From Malcangheri to Govindapilli the road is made the whole way (thirty-two miles for Rupees 4,309); then comes a distance of fourteen miles to Kollar up a ghaut not yet made from Kollar to Jeypore; the road is more or less made the whole way; distance sixteen miles and Rupees 450 has been spent on it. In accordance with my proposal in letter, No. 149 of 1876, I am only making a fair-weather road without bridges, which are afterwards to be erected of brick and chunam buttresses and wooden flooring. I do not think the ghaut from

Govindapilli to Kollar will give much trouble; and I have ordered my Mathi Jemadar to make a bridle-path a yard broad along two traces we discovered; so that on a future visit I may be able to choose the better one. Both these traces would make an easy ghaut of about one in twenty without zigzags, but with some return slope.

5. *Heads of Villages and Barikis.*—Malcangheri for revenue purposes is divided into twenty-three muttās, all of which formerly (with the exception of Salmi, bought from Bustar) were originally rented out by the Zemindars, which probably accounts for the backwardness of the division. All these muttās, except Salmi, are now under the Maharaja's Amin in Malcangheri, and have a fixed kist collected by some influential Dora or Naidū; for the most part the headman of the head village, who is responsible for the amount and for this service, enjoys certain lands rent free. Under each muttā head is one Bariki, whose duty it is to aid the muttā chief to collect the kist and to guard it (chiefly paid in grain), when heaped and when in transit. For this service he also has a piece of land allotted to him. When at home, at his chief's village, this man holds the position in that village similar to the low country Bariki; and from these twenty-three men might be exacted the Police duties enumerated by Major Balmer; but as for the regular village servants, called Grama Chakar, they are of all sorts, dhobies, barbers, carpenters, ironsmiths, who for rent-free land are required to give their labor for the benefit of the village in the particular trade they profess. Indeed, in many instances the villagers prefer to keep the allotted land unoccupied and send one or two of their number to act Chakar if a Sahib comes near them. Anyhow from the shifting of villages and undefined nature of their work, I do not think we can make use of these men, and only the twenty-three Barikies remain.

6. In Malcangheri there are 303 villages boasting village heads. I saw and conversed with seventy-two of these men, who are mostly a set of thick-headed, drinking, opium chewing men, with most childish ideas. The only intelligent men are, (1) Head of Mahanikapuram (can write a little); (2) Kotta Mitta (reads and writes); (3) Salmeri Conda (reads and writes). I also noted about five more who looked intelligent, but they cannot read and write and are continually drunk. Whatever we may propose doing elsewhere, these three are the only heads I would recommend Government to entrust with powers under Registration Act IV of 1821 in Malcangheri. The rest might make themselves useful in collecting beat tickets from the constables for the information of the Inspector. As for their reporting crime, &c., we should have to require them to do so personally. I have, however, told the Maharaja's subordinate Diwan, Apparow, when settling this taluq (as he is now about to do), to have a clear understanding about the village servants, and wherever there should be such and are none, to give the land to men on the distinct understanding of their doing Bariki's work.

7. *The Crops.*—To the south of Malcangheri there has certainly been a failure of crops, but I do not anticipate any distress in consequence. The villagers said they had only reaped half the crop they expected, but stated further that that half represented twenty times what they sowed, and as they did not attempt a second crop, and are even selling grain to the Brinjaries, and at very moderate rates, I do not think that even they are really of opinion that they have not enough for every one. But at the same time in order to make quite sure I have warned the Maharaja to keep back sufficient of his store of rice. His Diwan is selling it off at Kotpad and Singapore, but I hear there is still 300,000 garse in store.

8. *The Settlement.*—Everywhere the villagers requested that their cowles might be again settled. In 1872 Mr. Turner settled the taluq. He arranged that the cowles should be given to the villagers of the taluq north of Malcangheri, and to muttās in the lands to the south. This was to be a settlement for three years, and expired in 1875, and the ryots complain that the Amin for want of a better arrangement is making his demands still on these arrangements. Moreover there are several small disputes to be settled between the Amin and the ryots, and no wonder, as the latter keep their accounts with the aid of bags of stones only. So I spoke to the Maharaja on the subject, and he has ordered his subordinate Diwan, Apparow, to proceed round all the villages of this taluq and make a new settlement. He is directed to start at once.

9. *Wells.*—I have also got the Maharaja's promise that Apparow shall be ordered to promise at every village he may visit that half the price of any tank or well which the villagers may make for themselves shall, on the completion of the work, be remitted from the kist of that village.

10. As you are aware the population of Malcangheri is mostly nomad. A family settles down in a good spot where there is water and clears as much land as may be requisite. The family may remain ten or fifteen years, and even form detached villages round the spot; but, sooner or later, from some caprice, the old hut or huts which have hitherto sufficed are burned down and the inhabitants remove to a more favored spot.

11. I have often inquired why a village-site was left. Sometimes I have been told it was on account of a tiger having located himself on the village and killed men or cattle; occasionally grievous sickness had broken out; but the most general excuse is that the soil is played out. Their expression implies that it has become like a dried-up old woman.

12. The real reason is that they have no interest in any particular spot, and consider one place as good as another. In talking to them of improvements to their land, the only one thing they seemed to desire was a well or tank. I of course explained that it could not be expected that the Raja should bear the whole cost, and as on previous occasions the giving of advances had only resulted in much better feeling about repayment and in no sort of results, I suggested the above terms, and several of the villages seemed willing to try them.

13. *Education.*—I also tried to persuade the villagers to collect their sons together in convenient places for the purpose of educating them, but this they flatly refused to think of, as they would then lose the services of their children in tending cattle, carrying firewood, &c., and helping in the domestic arrangements.

14. *Cattle Disease.*—Foot-and-mouth disease had been very prevalent during the rains, and since ceased. The medicines with the Sub-Magistrate had been very little used.

15. *Forests.*—The jungle in Malcangheri has been almost completely destroyed. Colonel Biddome considered there was none on the plain of this taluq of more than eight or ten years' growth. The only considerable forest is one of the Sāl situated between Kotameta Mattli and Sikapilli, and there are still small patches of teak on the banks of the big rivers.

16. *Former Celebrities.*—Of the old celebrities who gave trouble in former days, Bungard Devi is living in the village the Maharaja assigned her. Chapaupalli Sunniassi Patro is dead, and Mukundoo Ontwal is requesting permission to return to his village in Malcangheri from Omerkote to which place he was sent by the Agent. As I think it might now be granted, I shall apply to you by letter; but I have first endorsed on the petition that should he return he will not be allowed to exercise any authority of any sort. The paiks of Korukonda and Malcangheri are paying their kist now without grumbling.

17. *The Abkhari.*—One general complaint made by the villagers was our taxing them 2 Annas a toddy tree, whereas formerly they drew their toddy for nothing. I told them they must pay or cut down their trees; that Brahmans and others lived without toddy and so might they, but if they were in want of a stray 2 Annas they had only to go and earn it on my new road.

18. I should have stated before that I was accompanied by Captain Eastall throughout the tour. He met Colonel Biddome and myself at Buckanguda. He unearthed two very nasty cases of torturing witches by the Police, which I have no doubt he has reported. One of them I have committed to your Court.

ENCLOSURE No. 4.

From Captain J. S. BLAXLAND, Acting Special Assistant Agent, to the Acting Agent to the Governor of Fort St. George at Vizagapatam, dated Koraput, 16th May 1877, No. 105:

I have the honor to report on my late tour through the country north of Nowrangpur accompanied by the Superintendent of Police, Captain Eastall, I arrived at Nowrangpur on March 24th, and after a halt of four days went three marches on by Omerkote and Raighar to Kodenga, where I inquired into a complaint made by the Bustar Raja against the Omerkote Nigamap and others, that they had invaded his territory with an armed band and removed a boundary stone and done other enormities, all which I found to be false, as I have already reported to you. From Kodenga I marched by Sonibehra to Jorigam, and thence on by Maindalpore to Gurupani, where I made inquiries into the boundary dispute between Nowrangpur and Moulpatam of Kalhundy, upon which I have already reported to you. I returned by Bhaspur to Nowrangpur, which I reached on May 3rd. I regret I was unable to go into the Puraghur, a Murtigaum muttā, as I had not sufficient time; but Captain Eastall visited Puraghur and halted there several days.

2. *Complaints.*—I report for your information a few of the complaints which were made to me to show you how things go on in this strip of country surrounded by different Native States, where justice seems to be dealt out in rather an extraordinary manner.

3. One Komolla Singh went to Bustar to lodge a complaint before the authorities there against a man for enticing away his wife. He first had to bribe two officials to get a hearing, which resulted in his being imprisoned for eight days; and then released on bail, which latter was only cancelled on payment of another bribe. The defendant was then had up and fined; and half the fine, minus a deduction for the officials, offered to complainant who refused it and was content to get back under British protection again. This I reported to the Deputy Commissioner of Sironcha.

4. One Chennuvora Rowthoo complained that an influential man of Dunmunthru Zillah had taken away his cattle and beaten him, to force him to enter into a contract for lac, to which he was averse. I have sent my warrant for the offender to the Raipur Commissioner, as this occurred in Jeypore territory. Another man named Singhi Neghi came and requested I would see he had fair play, if he left Kalahandi and settled at Maindalpore, as he was afraid of false complaints being brought against him if he moved. I wrote to the Kalahandi Raja to request that any complaints against the man might be sent for my disposal.

5. *The Village Authorities.*—At all the big villages I halted at I had in the heads of the neighbouring villages, and as I also saw the headmen of Moortigaum muttā at Jorigaum, I saw nearly all but the Puraghur men. I was much struck by the great variety of titles by which these men are called. There were (1) Naiks, (2) Mafees, (3) Gaintiahs, (4) Kanikis, (5) Patros, (6) Somrothas, (7) Odikaris, (8) Naghis, and (9) Modalis, dovetailed promiscuously in the less settled parts, and the only explanation I could get was that if Bustar ryots came and founded a village they called their headman a Majee; and if it was Kalahandi men, they called him Neghi and so on. It was only in old Chaitan Deo's muttās that I found all of one denomination, viz., Naik. In Puraghur muttā, the Pujari is almost invariably the headman of the village.

6. The most intelligent heads I met with came from Moortigaum muttā. Nearly every one of them can read and write; and in the villages of such as cannot there is always either a relative or some one who can. If Government do not think it would be invidious to the others to pick out the men of one muttā for the distinction these men might be at once trusted with the powers of Village Munsif, &c. In the other muttās of Raighar and Oomerkota there are several Kollars who could be trusted with these powers, only that they have the Abkārī contract of their villages and might misuse them. Of heads of other castes there are only four who can read and write; and two who could get their reading and writing done for them. As for such of the heads who are also Pujaris, they certainly cannot be trusted. They live on the gullibility of their neighbors for whom they pretend to perform all sorts of magic on the credit of which alone is based their influence amongst the people. It was they who egged on the people to Meriah sacrifices, &c., and to this day they are at the bottom of all the mischief that may be hatched in these parts. In the muttās under the late Chaitan Deo, the Naiks are of average intelligence and well behaved, but unfortunately cannot read or write or get such work done for them. In most of the villages of Moortigaum muttā is to be found the village Bariki, of whom the same duties are expected as from his brother in the plains; but nowhere else does this official exist. Whoever collects the kist of the village, and he is generally the headman, has an assistant generally denominated the Chellan, but this man is of nearly equal rank with and very frequently a relative of the headman's. He is not expected to do any police services, and in fact is not so much the village servant as the assistant of the headman, and is often the headman of a hamlet of the village. The Murtigaum Barikies are reporting crimes to the patrol that comes from Jarigaum weekly, and I do not think we can exact more of them as the distances are so great.

7. The villagers are mostly Ghonds with a few families of Gowds, Kollars, Mahlies, Sourahs, and Purjahs interspersed. At the village of Raighar are several Rajput families, and in the Moortigaum muttā are some Pathans. In nearly every Ghond village, a Gowd family has settled whose duty it is to drive the village cattle out to graze. They are paid by small presents of grain which they beg daily, taking the houses in rotation in accordance to some roster of their own. The people here seemed to have enjoyed an immunity from epidemic diseases for some years. No cholera for six years, and although the vaccinators have never been near them very little small-pox. This may probably be accounted for by their keeping their villages clean, and having a good supply of water for all purposes. Nearly every village has a tank, and a great many of them a well also, for which state of things the Nigaman of Oomerkota, G. Sooriah Narrain Row, deserves great credit. In Chaitan Deo's muttās there is a tank and a well and a tope to every village, I believe. He made it *de rigueur*. The only scourge has been cattle disease, and curiously enough it seems only to have been virulent about Dodra and Borondi, where the water-supply is scarce. This disease shows itself in fever, purging, frothing at the mouth and sores in the mouth, and is more fatal to buffaloes and sheep than to cows, and attacks them when from scarcity of water they are unable to get their daily wallow. To remedy this the Nigaman has started a sort of mutual co-operative society for digging tanks among the different villages, and I saw two or three tanks being constructed on the understanding that on their completion all hands of the villages for whose use they are made turn out and assist their neighbours with theirs till all have them.

8. The kist is assessed at a fixed sum for each village based on a demand per plough of Rupees 3 and one putty of paddy and one toom of black grain. Many villages have their cowles for five years, and all of these are allowed to use as many ploughs as they like provided they pay the fixed kist.

9. I saw sal of about twenty years' growth nearly the whole way from Behra to Raighar.

Jungle trees.

There is also sal of older growth at Chocha and Budlee Konadi, and throughout this part of the country sal, kendoo, and shishwah are growing; but throughout the length and breadth of it the jungles have been at one time or another cut, and I do not think the Forest Department would lay much value by them now as there is no virgin forest except perhaps on the slopes of the ghauts, and even there forest is being destroyed by the trees being ringed for lac. I saw no teak this tour, but remember that I saw two years ago a very fine teak forest (I fancy virgin) at Telnadigram, on the ghauts between Raighar Muttā and Kalanudy, and am informed it is still

untouched. I believe kendoo and shishwah are rosewood and ebony. I was enabled to obtain some live cocoons of the same silkworm of which I previously sent you the silk and forward them by banghy. I heard that at Dowuramal, in Kalahandi, they sell boiled cocoons at six for a Pie, and have sent over for 100 of them, which I will also forward should I get them. I could not learn whether silk-spinning was taken up as an industry at any particular place, but presume that the purchasers of the cocoons require them for weaving.

ENCLOSURE No. 5.

From W. A. WILLOCK, Esq., Acting Senior Assistant Agent, to the Agent to the Governor of Fort St. George in Vizagapatam, dated Bobbili, 11th April 1877, No. 130.

I have the honor to report on my tours in the Agency tracts of my division this season.

2. In consequence of the Jeypore Maharaja having issued orders to his Amins informing them that he had dismissed the Tāt Raja and directing them to assume the management of the estate, I first visited that part of the country, leaving Parvatipore in company with the Assistant Superintendent of Police on the 7th February and arriving at Rayaghada on the 9th.

3. The traffic along the road between those places is, I believe, greater than ever this year, and I annex returns of the numbers of bullocks and bandies which have passed through Rayaghada since 23rd December. The track itself has greatly deteriorated in consequence of want of funds for expenditure on its repairs, the whole of the grant for the jungle-clearing and roads of the Agency of this division having been appropriated to Jeypore this year. The grant from Local Funds for the part within the circle is being expended in completing the portion nearest to Parvatipore, and five miles of good metalled road will be finished this season.

4. The police arrangements along this line are far from satisfactory considering the extent to which it is frequented, there being but one station between the two Cusabhs, fifteen miles from Parvatipore and nineteen from Rayaghada; but the question of abolishing this and establishing two new ones within reasonable distances of each other is at present under the consideration of the Police authorities.

5. The new outcherry at Rayaghada has been completed since I was last there. The work appears good, with the exception of the roof, the wood-work of which was put up during the rains, and the mistry in charge appears to have availed himself of the difficulty of then inspecting what was being done to disregard the plan in some important particulars. He appears to have run short of beams of the proper scantling and supplied the deficiency with smaller ones in the upper portion, where he imagined the difference would escape observation. I see no reason, however, to apprehend any danger to the building from this cause as the roof is well supported by the two centre walls. Two beams were entirely omitted and had subsequently to be inserted at considerable expense. The expenditure on plastering has been excessive, but the sudden death of Kodandaroa, the late Sub-Magistrate, has rendered inquiry very difficult. I shall shortly address you on the subject when I get further information, which I have called for.

6. I was detained in Rayaghada for five days by bad weather, my tents being too wet to move, and was unable to start for Bissemtack until the 16th. I reached this place on the 18th, halting at Bādany and Balaga on the way. Bandy traffic is pushing its way up this valley, and I met several carts on the road—a thing I have never seen before beyond Kōmatlapeta, six miles from Rayaghada.

7. I saw the young Tāt Raja here several times (his father died on the 9th May 1876). He was in great distress about the demands which the Jeypore Maharaja was making of him under the threat of ousting him from his estate. I advised him to come to an amicable arrangement with his superior if possible, even at a considerable advance of peishchush, as he appeared to have been somewhat remiss in rendering the customary services at the Dasara last year. I however hardly expect that the matter will be settled without recourse to the Civil Courts as I understand the Maharaja's terms are unreasonably hard.

8. Having made arrangements to be in Parvatipore before the end of the month I returned direct from Bissemtack. I had intended to have tried to get round the northern corner of the Nyungerries to Singapur, but the days lost in Rayaghada through bad weather prevented me from carrying out this purpose.

9. I started again from Parvatipore for the Gunapur Agency on the 4th March, halting at Kurapam and Lukshnipuram en route. At the latter place I found that several cases of cholera had occurred amongst persons returning from the Kurmam festival on the road from Kurapam on that and the preceding day. The disease had apparently been contracted in the Palaconda Taluq. The Station-house Officer was supplied with the necessary medicines and disinfectants, but the outbreak was confined to those returning from the feast. Cholera does not appear to be

able to obtain any footing in the Hill tracts, the outbreaks which have occurred being almost invariably confined to persons who have themselves brought it from the low country.

10. At Gunapur I met the Assistant Superintendent of Police, who had proceeded across the range of hills which separate the Rayaghada and Gunapur valleys. I also received here your letter regarding the disturbances amongst the Iliki Khonds of Ganjam, and made arrangements with the Amin for the collection of a body of paiks at Godairy in case they should be wanted.

Twelve Constables from Wadasaul were also at once ordered on to the new station at Depagada.

We marched to Lubba next morning and thence to Depagada, where we halted a day and held a bet for the Khonds of the Sirdarpore Muttá and distributed the customary presents. Everything appeared to be perfectly quiet, even the fact of there being any disturbance in Ganjam being unknown. The erection of the new station-house and connected buildings does not appear to have attracted the attention of the Khonds or roused their suspicions in the slightest.

11. Complaints were made by some of them regarding the interference of the Ramgiri Sub-Magistrate in the villages near Tatalponga, the claim formerly made to which by Chinna Kimedý was withdrawn in the commencement of 1874. In the letter from the Agent of Ganjam, dated 6th February 1877, No. 65, a copy of which you sent me a short time ago, it is stated that these villages are now claimed as a part of the Pedda Kimedý Estate; but as the former dispute was one long standing between Chinna Kimedý and Jeypore, during the continuance of which nothing was said of the existence of a claim on the part of Pedda Kimedý, I do not think it likely to be substantiated, particularly as I hear that the actual claimant, Sundara Nárayana Patro, is the same as before. The Ramgiri Sub-Magistrate has been overactive in meddling with the affairs of these villages, and I beg to suggest that the Ganjam Agent be communicated with, with a view to restraining him from any further interference with them until the matter has been finally settled, as Jeypore has acquired a *prima facie* right to them by the withdrawal of the former claims. I was within a march of the villages in dispute, but thought that to visit them without the Senior Assistant Agent of Ganjam would be likely to do more harm than good. I hope to arrange a meeting here with him next cold season.

12. From Depagada we went to Godairy and met the Majjis of that muttá there. An enterprising Sundi had advanced liquor to most of them on the security of the dubs they expected to receive from the Sircar, which rendered the bet more amusing than edifying. The present Godairy Amin, son of the old Amin lately deceased, is a very young man, and I am afraid has not much personal influence with the inhabitants of the two muttás under his charge.

13. Thence we marched to Bijapur, a long journey of nineteen miles, over bad ground and through such dense unbroken jungle for the last thirteen miles as to render a halt very objectionable on account of fever. At Sirigudi, however, seven miles from Godairy, a large village and good site for a bungalow exist, and I beg strongly to recommend that one be built here and another at Rayabiji at a cost of Rupees 200 each, the amount spent on those at Gunapur and Godairy. These bungalows would, with the Police station-houses, which are remarkably good in the Khond Division, complete a chain all through the Kotiya Muttás within accessible distances of each other, and enable an officer to reach any part of the country at any season of the year without tents. Sirigudi, though somewhat near Godairy, in addition to breaking the distance between that place and Bijapur has the advantage of being situated at the point where the Rayabiji road branches off, and a track to Chendrapur which could, if necessary, be traversed in a day also joins in near here.

14. A bungalow at Rayabiji is still more desirable as it is almost the centre of the northern Kotiya Muttás and one of the most likely points to require a visit in case of a disturbance. At present by making an extra long march any other part of the Kotiya country can be reached without tents with the assistance of the Police station-houses, but Rayabiji forms a block which cannot be got over either from Chendrapur, Godairy, or Dungasurda without their help.

15. Reaching Bijapur in the afternoon I was obliged to order the Khonds of the muttá to assemble at Chendrapur. Several of them came, but went away again, being afraid of being called on to assist in carrying our *saman*, of which I was rather glad, as two of the Amin's paiks were attacked with vomiting and purging during the night and though my Dresser did not think the cases were genuine cholera the symptoms were suspicious.

16. For this reason I did not take any further steps to muster the Majjis of the Rayabiji Muttá at Rayabiji next day though several that had already received notice attended. No further cases of the sort having occurred I marched on next day to Karlaghati, Mr. Prendergast going on to Dungasurda and Patroguda. At Karlaghati I held a bet for the Majjis of that and the Dungasurda Muttás, which was largely attended. The Karlaghati Muttá has just been rented out to the Patro of that place at a rent which has been enhanced from Rupees 635 to Rupees 950, and I had heard before I arrived there that the Khonds intended to complain to me about the consequent enhancement of their kists. I however learnt from the Station-house Officer that they had agreed to an increase of 4 Annas per Rupee a few days before. No complaints were made to me by them, and, as I did not think it advisable to open the matter again, I made no direct

inquiries on the subject, merely questioning them carefully as to whether they had any complaints to make, in reply to which they said that they had none. Several of the Majjis mentioned that these villagers had suffered from small-pox during the year, but recommendations to try vaccination only produced a promise to do so should the disease break out again.

From Karlaghati I returned direct to Godairy, a rather long march over bad ground.

17. In the above tour I visited all the Kotiya Khond Muttás and found nowhere the slightest signs of discontent or turbulence. The Majjis now come in much more freely than when I first visited the country, and everywhere manifested a most friendly disposition. They seem to no longer regard us with suspicion and distrust. Still we can never be sure how long the present state of affairs may continue, and our Kotiya Khonds never having come into collision with us up to this if any outbreak ever occurs it will probably be a serious one. I therefore think that some steps should be taken towards putting the Police in possession of a more reliable weapon than that with which they are now armed.

The locks of their muskets are so weak and worn-out that they constantly fail to ignite the caps, and the latter are also of a most inferior description, and occasionally partially ignite two or three times before they do so sufficiently to discharge the piece. At Godairy I saw the Police at ball practice, and there was at least one misfire out of every three shots. It would be impossible to expect men armed with such weapons to do themselves justice in a case of emergency.

18. The number of Majjis who attended were as follows:—

Sirdarpore	33
Godairy	24
Chendrapur	10
Rayabiji	14
Karlaghati	36

From Godairy I proceeded to Gunapur *via* Gummada.

19. The construction of the new jail here has, I am sorry to say, been carried on in a most unsatisfactory manner by E. Narsingarow, the late Sub-Magistrate, and the building remains unfinished for want of funds. The cost of the brick-work, though high, was within what the estimate could afford, but the charges for wood-work are most extravagant. I fear that Narsingarow left the expenditure during the latter part of his service entirely in the hands of his subordinates and did not in any way supervise it himself. I shall address a separate letter to you on the subject in a few days.

20. On the 20th I went to Kadaissy in the Sourah Hills and held a bet for the Gomangoes, who attended in large numbers. Complaints were made about Gumma Bissoye's interference with the inhabitants of villages which were decided to belong to Jeypore last year, but on careful inquiry I found the makers had really nothing to complain about, what they referred to having occurred before Messrs. Grahame and MacCartie's visit. The Sourahs appear to be excessively fond of having something to complain of, and will when more civilized be great patrons of the Civil and Magisterial Courts.

21. With regard to these people, I think the practice of holding bétas for them might be discontinued with great advantage. They live so close to Gunapur, have now so much intercourse with the plains, and are so well off compared to the Khonds that they are rapidly coming to regard the whole transaction with the contempt that an inhabitant of the low country would feel. I think it would be a great improvement to summon the usual recipients of cloths to Gunapur in future and distribute them there, giving presents to such others as attended, and take no more notice of the Sourahs while in their own country than of any others. The Khonds, on the contrary, have a great respect for the piece of red rag they get presented them and regard the whole procedure as a most serious business.

22. The scene of the dispute between the Jeypore Maharaja and Gumma Bissoye, which was inquired into last year by Messrs. Grahame and MacCartie, should have been again visited jointly by the former and myself this year to carry out the orders contained in G.O., dated 7th October 1876, No. 2064, and make the necessary revision of the boundary. Mr. Grahame, however, having made his hill tour in the early part of November, was unable to come up a second time to meet me there. The final settlement of the dispute has consequently had to be postponed until next season.

23. The Agency tracts of this division has lost three of its most important personages during the past year, E. Narsingarow, Sub-Magistrate of Gunapur, taking his pension, and the old Tāt Raja of Bissemcuttack and Kodandarow, many years Sub-Magistrate of Rayaghada, having died.

24. The Tāt Raja died on May 9th, and his loss will be severely felt in his estate. His son, who has succeeded him, however, has improved greatly since I last saw him, and his present responsibilities appear to be tending to develop the better traits of his character.

Dalta Tirapatiraz, who succeeds as Sub-Magistrate of Gunapur, promises to make an efficient successor to Narsingarow if he can stand the climate. He was unable to accompany me in my tour in Gunapur having contracted a bad attack of fever in coming across to meet me at Bissemouttaek during the heavy rains of the early part of February, which laid him up until my return to Godairy.

The loss of Narsingarow's influence amongst the Khonds, though a serious one, is, to a great extent, neutralized by the increasing confidence of these people in Ramanna, the Inspector of the Kotiya Division, and the great respect they entertain for him. His management of this division during the many years it has been in his charge cannot be too highly spoken of, though, judging from the promotion he has received, it appears hardly to have been sufficiently appreciated in his own department.

25. Annexed is a statement of the expenditure on presents, &c., during the tour. In addition to this Rupees 1-13-0 were incurred in dooly-hire for Mahouts and peons when unable to walk through fever.

ENCLOSURE No. 6.

From J. D. REES, Esq., Assistant Agent, to the Acting Agent to the Governor of Fort St. George in Vizagapatam, dated Waltair, 15th February 1877.

I have the honor to report that according to your instructions I have visited the Hill tracts of the Agency Sub-division.

2. I left Narsipatam on the 22nd May accompanied by Mr. Lushington, the Assistant Superintendent of Police, and marched to Lummasinghi, halting for breakfast at Kondasanta at the foot of the ghaut. There the renter of the mutta, Narsingha Paddalu, met us and complained that the coolies who carried the doors and windows for the bungalows lately built at Chintapilly and Gimli were not paid by the Inspector of Police. I told him that any coolies who wished to complain should individually put their own cases before me, and he said they would next day at Lummasinghi. A well is being sunk at Kondasanta by the Tahsildar. There is no wet cultivation here; the dry crops succeeded fairly well last season.

3. On the 23rd and 24th I halted at Lummasinghi. The Paddalu, who had come up the ghaut, came to me with two or three coolies on whose behalf he had complained the night before. They all had the same complaint to make about the same matter, viz., that they carried doors, &c., from Kondasanta to Lummasinghi and were not paid the proper hire, 2 Annas. One, however, was not sure whether he carried to Lummasinghi or from Lummasinghi to the next stage, and another went away and did not claim payment for some time afterwards. The Inspector was to meet us at Gudem, but as complaints have recently been made against him which were inquired into departmentally and he is to a certain extent upon his trial just now, I thought it better to travel without him so that all who had any complaints to make might make them without fear and that the question might, as far as lay in my power, be finally settled. I therefore gave him leave at Peddavalasa, the next stage after Gudem, where he subsequently met us, not without some regret, as his energy and knowledge of the country and people lessen materially the difficulties of travelling in these hills. No complaint of any sort was, however, made against him except that already mentioned, and I will proceed here to explain what I believe, from inquiry on the hills and at Narsipatam, to be the facts of the case. The Inspector gave Rupees 4 to the Tahsildar for the payment of about thirty coolies, i.e., at the proper rate of 2 Annas a man. These coolies carried from Kondasanta to Lummasinghi and were actually paid at the station-house in the latter village. Coolies, however, were needed to take the things on to Gimli, and for payment of these, too, Rupees 4 were provided by the Inspector and duly disbursed by the Tahsildar through his peon, Dada Sahib. The Paddalu, however, complaining that this was not enough for the latter journey the Inspector gave Rupees 4 more to Dada Sahib telling him to pay what was wanted out of it. The peon went to the Paddalu and said: "I will pay you if you give me a receipt, if not I must pay in the presence of the Tahsildar." The latter did not take the trouble to give a receipt or go to the Tahsildar, and the peon instead of reporting the fact kept the Rupees 4 till the present time and gave them to me at Narsipatam. I handed them on to the Tahsildar and sent to the Paddalu a copy of the endorsement sent herewith. The Inspector neither engaged the coolies himself nor undertook their payment himself, and I cannot see that any blame whatever attaches to him in this matter. Where payment is refused in one case a suspicion arises that it may not have been demanded in another and that the Paddalu prefers a cause of action against the Inspector to the settlement of the coolies' claims. The Tahsildar's peon has been fined. Inspector Kannaya is certainly somewhat zubbardust in manner; but, however much this may be regretted as being unnecessary among the quiet and inoffensive people of the hills, it cannot be allowed to weigh against the many good qualities I believe he possesses. He is a man of great energy, knows the people and the country well, has a constitution fitted to stand the malarious climate, and, what is of no small importance, is an efficient check on the only Dora who has the power and the will to oppress the

people. I told the Tahsildar to get a list of coolies employed in future for any public purpose made by the Paddalu, to give the usual hire to him, and to hold him responsible for its disbursement instead of a peon of his own.

4. There has been some hill-clearing here in the past year; the paddy crop was a very poor one and the dry crops not so good as usual. The Police station needs white-washing.

5. On the 25th we marched to Chintapilly and found the new bungalow in very good condition. Next day I walked through Antarla and asked the people if they had any complaints to make. They had nothing to complain of but the failure of the crops last season. Raggy is their chief crop here; they have little wet land.

6. They told me here, as at many other villages, that at the time the cyclone visited Vizagapatam an unusually severe storm was experienced up here. The oranges, then green, were blown off the trees and the rising crops much injured.

7. A ryot of the Antarla Dora complained that the latter had made him pay Rupee 1, a year's rent, which he did not owe. His father, it appeared, had died in the beginning of the revenue year, and he had cultivated, and maintained that his father had paid for that year. Cowle, Cadapa, and receipts, of course, there were none. I think the Dora only demanded his dues, and advised the parties to settle amicably, which they agreed to do. A similar complaint from a neighbouring village was similarly settled.

8. Two or three houses have been built at Chintapilly since the bungalow was commenced.

27th.—Marched to Gudem passing Ebula village consisting of one house inhabited by one family on the way. The inhabitant of the village, Patina Veera Patrudu, said that Picchi Dora of Kondarada prevented him from cultivating some of his land. I told him to come on to Gudem. The station-house here is on its last legs, the walls, constructed of mud and bamboo, lean at an alarming angle, and, if you put out your hand to feel the way, great flakes of dried mud fall off the walls at the touch. I say, to feel the way, because this is necessary in broad day even, when it is so dark that the pictures of the resuscitation of the drowning man are hardly visible. These pictures with instructions below are exhibited in all the stations here and are about as appropriate as a notice "to beware of the steam-roller" would be in Venice. There was hardly enough water in all Gudem this year to drown a rat in. If the Police do not mean to build the contemplated new station immediately, I venture to recommend that a new bungalow with windows like that at Chintapilly be built here. If the storm we had a week later at Krishnadevipett had visited Gudem the station-house would have been washed away, the contingency perhaps which was foreseen when the pictorial instructions were placed on its walls. The Doras of Old and New Gudem both said scarcity prevailed and that at Darakonda the people had nothing but bamboo rice to eat. (This I found, when I went to that village, not to be the case. The Darakonda Dora said their paddy crop had failed, as, indeed, it seems to have done all over the upper hills, but there was enough money in the village to buy rice and raggy for all.)

28th.—Walked through Old Gudem and Malapilli. In the former village I met one of my peons, who dodged behind a tree. I thought from this he had been looting, and on getting him out found his hands full of materials for curry, a half-starved chicken, onions, &c., but the Dora, who was walking around the village with me, said he gave them to him; the value was a dub, and his ideas of highland hospitality would not allow him to accept that from a peon though I pressed payment. No complaints here, but at Malapilli the Munsif complained that a villager had built two sheds on the village site. I looked at the sheds; they certainly were a great nuisance to the other villagers, so I asked the Dora to give the builder a patch of ground on the outskirts of the village, to which all agreed.

Another complaint was made against Picchi Dora by one Polu Rzu Berramma, who said, like the former complainant, that he was prevented from cultivating his land. I sent for Picchi Dora and saw him the 31st, on my return from Darakonda. He is sub-renter of Kondavada under New Gudem Dora, and the two complainants are ryots of the Old Gudem Dora. The former said he could not say positively whether the land, the ownership of which is disputed, belongs to Ebula of the old estate or to Kondarum of the new, but he thought it was his. In fact, the difference is between the two Doras as to the boundary of their estates, and needs a local inquiry and demarcation. My time on the hills was too limited to allow of my inquiring into the matter in the absence of accounts and records; but I have communicated the circumstances to the Principal Assistant Agent and recommended a local inquiry; meanwhile I told Picchi Dora he must cease to prevent cultivation till the question is settled.

On the 29th we walked to Darakonda, a very long march. We breakfasted after passing the first ghaut, which is as stiff but not as stony as that at Lummasinghi. Just before reaching the top of the second ghaut, which rises to 4000 feet, a fine view of the surrounding country can be obtained. Across several sholas, finely wooded, you see the big hill of Antarla famous for bison, and hill succeeds hill till two shadowy peaks of Grungaraz Madgole are just visible in the distance. The only tree ferns I have seen in these hills were in the jungle below. As you descend into the valley of Darakonda the view towards the Central Provinces is grand, but it is all you can do to keep your legs. The distance is said to be eighteen miles. I do not think it can be more than

fifteen, judging by the time. A march all ghaut is likely to be overestimated. The crops here had been pretty good. The two Doras, who pay between them only Rupees 30, ought to be well to do. Mr. Cruickshank was here three years ago. There were no complaints then as now.

30th.—Marched back to Gudem. Two men, named Munda Latchmudu and Idala Sanniyasi, complained that Narsimha Paddau, the Lammasinghi Muttadar, made them pay tax at the rate of 4 Annas a bandy at the Kondasanta market. Next day at Peddavalasa, Donkade Nallaga and Derara Lingayya complained that from them, too, payment of 4 Annas on each bullock they took to the fair with merchandize at the time of the last Pongal was exacted. Chippa Paddalu, of Rentada, said the same tax had been demanded from him, and that he paid the money into the hands of Narsimha Paddau's son. I had no opportunity of seeing the Paddalu or his son again, and not thinking it advisable, after what occurred at Lammasinghi, to refer to the Police there for information, I took no further action in the matter then but informed the Agent to the Governor of it immediately on my return to Waltair.

The Old Gudem Dora wants a cattle-pound in his muttá. I cannot recommend this. It does not seem necessary, and might be converted into an engine of oppression, though the Dora appears to be a well-disposed and intelligent man and more ready to help travellers than his brother of New Gudem. Neither of these Doras had heard of the visits of the Governor to Vizagapatnam or of the Prince of Wales to India. Neither knew anything of the cyclone, though both assured me that a severe storm visited these hills at a date which corresponded exactly with that of the cyclone which came within three days of His Grace's departure. There was less jungle-clearing last year than usual.

31st.—Marched from Gudem to Peddavalasa, passing Lakkavarapeta on the way. The ryots were planting out the second crop of paddy. The cultivators on the hills depend entirely on the rains, and if they fail will not utilize the never-failing jungle-streams. In many places I visited a third of the irrigable land might have been thus prepared for a second crop, which the recent rain would have brought on well, but it was left waste. The people prefer gathering the gall-nut and other jungle products to the labors of cultivation, and the proceeds are sufficient even in this exceptional year to enable them to buy rice and raggy at the different markets around. The new bungalow at Peddavalasa needs repair already. The Bariki in charge has done a little, but I would suggest that the Inspector, who comes up once a month, should be directed to make an occasional report on its condition and that of the other bungalows, the comforts of which are much appreciated after a stay in the black hole at Gudem. Most of the cultivation here is wet, and the wet crops failed. The dry did better: about 8-Anna crop, I should say. The orange groves produced next to nothing. A few coffee plants the Dora laid down are doing well.

February 1st.—Walked through the three hamlets of which Peddavalasa is composed, each hamlet consisting of one big house and many cow-sheds. The whole population, about 100 in number, belong to one family. A woman from the plains selling dried fish complained that a man she pointed out subsequently had taken some fish and would not pay. The man said it was a credit transaction and he was willing to pay his debt, which he did before me at the bungalow. The Village Munsifs on these hills never exercise the powers they possess in cases of petty theft. Probably, however, the need to exercise them hardly ever arises. The Dora of New Darakonda, who followed me here, complained that Veraya Dora had by encroachments enlarged the Inam Mr. Cruickshank allotted for his maintenance. I have communicated this to the Governor's Agent, in whose office the records of Mr. Cruickshank's proceedings are.

2nd.—Marched to Koyur, a distance of twelve miles with a ghaut as abrupt almost as that at Darakonda to descend. Along the march the valley gets broader and the character of the country changes to that met with below the ghauts. Everywhere I was told all crops were an utter failure. Taking this statement *cum grano*, from what I heard and saw I should say that the wet crops nowhere exceeded a 4-Anna crop and were generally much below, and that the dry crop was about an 8-Anna crop throughout. There is little hill-clearing going on just now to replace the patches cultivated for the usual two years and then abandoned. I adjourned a maintenance case for evidence of witnesses at a distance till the 4th.

Next day (3rd) I investigated a charge of cattle-stealing brought by the Police against one Punigi Latchmudu. The alleged stolen property, a cow and two calves, was produced. The prisoner admitted taking them from the premises of the prosecutor, who was away from home, but said he did so by the order of Venkan Dora, the Muttadar of Dulchety. The Dora denied this and said that one Ravada Sittadu gave him the cow in satisfaction of a debt; that he made it over to prosecutor to keep for him; and that two months ago prosecutor's brother brought it and the two calves, which had been subsequently born, to his house as there was no one to look after them in prosecutor's absence. He said he had no idea where Ravada Sittadu was and had not seen him lately. I then called a witness accused wished me to examine on his behalf. I had sworn him and asked him his name when to my surprise I found he was Ravada Sittadu himself and not the witness accused wanted. I examined him, and he told me the Dora's tale was all untrue. I then called accused's witness, a dependant of the Dora's. He first of all denied all knowledge of everything, and had evidently been drinking, but I think the toddy of

which he smelt strongly aided the investigation of the truth, for he lost his cue and finally admitted that he had seen the accused take the cow and one of the calves to Venkan Dora's. I am convinced, as I said in my judgment, which was read out before the Dora, that he, whether on any legal right or pretext, or not, caused the cattle to be removed in an irregular manner and in the known absence of the prosecutor. He did not expect to be called on to give evidence, and had not much time to make a half-intoxicated witness understand the situation, as I took all the evidence the same evening he came in from Dulchety. Next day no reliable evidence could have been got, as the Dora, who is a clever and overbearing man, is feared here much more than the Magistrate. From what I have seen of him I am fully prepared to endorse the verdict passed on him by Messrs. Jones, Bliss, and Cruickshank. With a Police Officer in charge of the division who had not the courage to oppose him an incalculable amount of injustice and oppression might be wrought by such a man.

The Agent will remember that three years ago Rupees 180 were given to him to build two wells with—a very liberal grant. One at Adatigule he has completed, and Mr. Lushington, who saw it last year, says it is well done. He says he dug a pit for the other but the rains filled it up. In any case it must be begun afresh. He has spent all the money, and the result is one well. I asked him whether he had accounted for the expenditure to the Tahsildar. There is no reason why he should, as the whole matter was placed in his hands; but with his usual preference for an untruth he said he had. The Department of Public Works would build two wells for Rupees 180. The amount of cooly the Dora pays must be estimated by his honesty. Chinese cheap labor is probably dear compared with that at his disposal, for he need pay no more than he pleases. I told him he must finish the second well at once or return Rs. 90, and I trust the Agent will see fit to fix a limit within which the work must be done or the penalty enforced.

Mr. Lushington and I walked through the market here. Rice from Elai Sherrum was selling at the price which prevailed in the plains when I left them, viz., eight seers the Rupee.

4th.—I concluded the maintenance case, record of which together with that of the Police case I forward herewith. It had been my intention to go on to Chodaram and Dulchety yesterday, but the cases detained me, and to my regret I was unable to visit those stations in the time at my disposal. From inquiry I conclude the dry crops there have been good.

5th.—Marched to Kristnadevipetta.

6th.—The dry crops here have been good, and the wet better than on the hills, but not so good as at Narsipatam. The rains set in well and a good year was expected, but subsequent drought altered the prospect. This, though in the Agency tracts, is a hill station only in name. Several revenue petitions were presented to me, but I declined to interfere, and forwarded them to the Principal Assistant Agent. Concerning the repairs to Amma Chervu which the villagers have done, very satisfactorily I think, but the cost of which they are unable to recover, I have written a separate letter to the Governor's Agent on the 7th.

On the 7th I marched to Narsipatam and after halting there next day came on to Waltair on the 8th and 9th.

The accurate and detailed reports of Messrs. Jones, Bliss, and Cruickshank leave nothing for subsequent visitors to say of the country, its scenery, its ghauts, and the difficulties of travelling in it. It is a country where, though times change, the people do not change with them, and I found the hill men, as they did, contented with themselves and their lot and caring nothing for what goes on in the plains below. When asked whether they have anything to complain of, they generally ask in return what should they have to complain of! There was no illness except fever, and of this but little—I mean among the hill people: in my own camp there was much. The wild beasts have been preying on the cattle in some places, but to no great extent. I was told at Peddavalasa, I think, that since Captain Owen had been shooting up there no man had been killed by a tiger. The ryots speak well of the Doras, and the Doras, as a rule, possess the confidence and respect of the ryots, and on the whole life in this secluded locality more nearly resembles the régime under which

"The rich man loves the poor man,
And the poor man loves the great."

than in most places. Rice and raggy are dearer than usual, but there is no real distress.

No. 179.

ORDER THEREON, 25th September 1877, No. 2294.

The annual tour, which was of short extent and duration, was made by Mr. Melville, to whose report the Acting Agent subjoins the usual returns, with some remarks of his own.

2. No. I (Civil and Criminal Work) shows the work under these heads to have been much as usual. The Sub-Magistrates are invested under the Agency Rules with some of the powers of a District Munsif; deciding cases themselves or referring them to arbitration. The Civil Officers of the Agency have also judicial powers. Out of the total file of 212 suits, 141 were decided within the year.

Seventy-five prisoners were committed to the Agency Sessions; 22 charged with Murder; 14 with Manslaughter; 22 with Dacoity. Forty-three were convicted; and only two cases occurred where none of the prisoners was convicted.

G.O., 17th August 1877, No. 2521.

3. No. II (Forests, in connection with Colonel Boddome's tour) has been disposed of in the Revenue Department.

4. Nos. III and IV are Captain Blaxland's reports of his tours, south and north of his head-quarters. The country is everywhere settled and progressing. In disposing of the question of nominating Heads of Villages, the Agent will not lose sight of the dictum of Sir T. Munro, afterwards incorporated into Regulation IV of 1816, that "the person who collects the revenue and under whose authority the village servants act, shall be considered as the head of the village."

5. No. V is Mr. Willock's report of his tour in his division, the Rayaghada and Gunapur Taluqs—the latter containing the Khond and Sourah Muttas.

(a.) The dispute between the Jeypore Maharaja and his feudatory the Tāt Raja of Bissemtack was obviously one for amicable adjustment, in which the good offices of the Agent have not been wanting, and the Government are glad to learn from recent information that it has been settled.

(b.) It is satisfactory to learn that even the more distant Khond communities "everywhere manifest the most friendly disposition." The proposal of the Acting Head Assistant to call in the Sourahs to Gunapur, instead of visiting them in their own country, is disapproved. If these people do not attach importance (with the Khonds) to the strips of red cloth presented to them by the Agency Officers, some other trifling gifts can be substituted.

(c.) The character given to the Police carbines by Mr. Willock will be communicated to the Inspector-General. The 600 Rupees solicited for the construction of three additional rest-houses (paragraph 8) are sanctioned.

6. No. VI, Mr. Rees's report of his visit to the Golconda Hills has been perused with interest, and is very creditable to that young officer. He reports that in this part of the Agency also "the people are contented," saying emphatically that they have nothing to complain of.

7. Mr. Melville's application (paragraph 6) that the annual sum allowed for "Jungle Clearing and Roads" shall be allotted by the Agent as the necessities of the various Hill tracts require, and not be placed solely at the disposal of any one of his several Assistants, is a very reasonable one, and will be complied with in future.

(True Extract.)

D. F. GARMONIAEL,
Chief Secretary.

W. M. Scherlock
Assistant Secy. to Govt.

To the Agent in Vizagapatam.
" Revenue Department.
" Public Works "
" Inspector-General of Police.
" Accountant-General.
Exd. J. Wright & A. S. Rodgers.

Revenue, 1877 - 25/10

No 4274
Colli. of 1877
JUDICIAL

70 THE AGENT IS VIZAGAPATAM.

Date September 25/77.

Recd. 7/10
Recd. 5/10/77

G.O., 25/10 September 1877, No. 2294.

SEPTEMBER
Nos. 178-179.

Hill Trade, Vizagapatam. - Annual Report on
the administration of the Hill Trade for the year
1876, reviewed.

25/10/77
Comm. of the
Board of Revenue
S. A. H. 77

25/10/77 Revenue 2-10-77