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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 319	Press Mis.
122-123	
Dated 9-2-	18 61.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government Revenue Department,
9th February 1861.*

No. 122. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 11th January 1861, No. 183:—

Read the following letter from J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Acting Collector of North Arcot, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Fort Saint George, dated Ranipet, 5th January 1861, No. 4.

Sir,

1. I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of the Board's Circular, No. 5,822, dated 12th ultimo, calling upon me to report the names of the Zamindáris and Mutthás in my District in which Mohturfa is legally and permissively collected by the Proprietors and the amount of the item as included in the permanent settlement giving at the same time any information that may be on record respecting the annual proceeds of the impost.

2. In the margin are particularized the names and Peshkash of the several Zamindáris, Jáhírs, and Polliems comprised within this District. There are no Mutthás in North Arcot. Of these, the two first, viz., the Zamindáris of Calastry and Kavetnaggar are the largest and most independent as respects the tenures on which they are held, and as such claim prior notice.

3. During the Mahomedan dynasty the Proprietors of these two Zamindáris had, as I need scarcely observe, to keep up at their own charges and in addition to the nominal tribute annually paid by them, a Military force available on any exigency for the service of the State.

		<i>Star Pagodas.</i>	
* Calastry	Former Peshkash.....	10,775	
	Equivalent for Military Force	49,225	
		60,000	
		<i>Deduct.</i>	
		<i>Star Pagodas.</i>	
		Sayer	5,082
		Spirituos liquor..	465
		Salt	55
			5,602
		Present Peshkash....	54,398 = 1,90,393 Rupees
Kavetnaggar-ram.	Former Peshkash.....	32,586	
	Equivalent for Military Force	27,414	
		60,000	
		<i>Deduct.</i>	
		<i>Star Pagodas.</i>	
		Salt	5,451
		Spirituos liquor..	931
		Salt	0
			6,382
			53,618 = 1,87,663 Rupees

† To Board, 14th July 1801.
From do. 25th August 1802.

5. The Peshkash paid by the Zamindár of Calastry remains as originally fixed, but that derived from the Kavetnaggar Estate was reduced on the 24th October 1859 to Rupees 1,85,782-8-2 on account of land appropriated by Government for railway purposes, and will have to undergo adjustment from time to time as these operations extend.

4. When however the country came under British Supremacy, these Zamindáris were relieved of this latter engagement; and in lieu of the Military service exacted from them under the former rule an equivalent in money was fixed and included in the Peshkash thenceforward to be paid by them. The Government, however, having decided to reserve to itself the revenues derived from Salt Sayer, and spirituous liquors, the then estimated value of the proceeds of these three imposts was deducted, and the Peshkash of both Zamindáris was finally fixed at the respective amounts specified in the margin.* The principles and details of this arrangement are explained in extenso in the correspondence noted in the margin.†

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9th February 1861.*

6. From the correspondence already noted, I gather generally that the Peshkash paid by these two Zamindaris was not settled on any nice computation of their resources, and that with the exception of the three items of Salt, Sayer and Abkari the Government made no reservations, but have recognized the Mohturfa as one of the assets included in the permanent settlement over which they have no control. The levy of this impost is therefore, I apprehend, an exclusive privilege legally exercised by the proprietors of these two Estates. Mr. Stratton submitted with his report of the 14th July 1861, statements exhibiting the various resources of these two Zamindaris and in that numbered 22, estimates the proceeds of the tax on castes and trades at 1,134 Star Pagodas (Rupees 3,969) in the Calastry and 2,764 Star Pagodas (Rupees 9,674) in the Kavet-naggar Zamindari. But agriculture and commerce have made large strides since these computations were made, and it is therefore fair to surmise that these figures do not now represent even approximately the income actually realized from this impost.

7. In my letter to the Board of the 27th November 1860, No. 289, are given the most recent statistics we have of the proceeds realized from this tax in these two Zamindaris. Besides these, I have not been able to lay my hand on any record which throws additional light on the subject.

8. In the Kangundi Zamindari the levy of Mohturfa was resumed by Government in 1258. Vide correspondence noted in the margin, and in the Istimrar Sanad forwarded to this Office in 1852 for delivering to the Zamindar, the Mohturfa is expressly excluded from the settlement, and its management and its profits reserved by the State.

9. The Punganur Zamindari which was transferred to this District from that of Cuddapah in 1856 is similarly placed; and the Mohturfa and Visabadi taxes are not included among the assets on which the Peshkash was originally fixed, and have hitherto been collected by the revenue authorities. In the draft of the Istimrar Sanad recently returned from this Office, the Mohturfa and Visabadi taxes are, it will be in the recollection of the Board, among the items of revenue expressly reserved by Government.

10. Writing of the Arnee Jahgir, Mr. Brett observes in paragraphs 7, 8 and 9 of his letter to the Board, dated 19th May 1853 that, "In regard to the nature of the tenure on which the Jahgir is held I refer the Board to their letter dated 12th May 1825 communicating the orders of Government on the succession of the late Jahgirdar, when the right of the Jahgirdar to hold the Jahgir as an hereditary possession was formally recognized. As a Sanad was conferred on the late Jahgirdar at the time of his succession. I request the Board will consider whether a similar document is necessary on the present occasion.

"I also submit to the Board's consideration with reference to paragraph 2 of Minutes of Consultation dated 18th April 1848, No. 400, whether the present opportunity should not be taken to carry out in the Jahgir the wishes of Government in regard to the Mohturfa tax. Up to this time the Jahgirdar has enjoyed the right of collecting this tax. I have no accounts in my Office to show what its annual value is; but I have now written to the Jahgirdar to request he will furnish me with an account of the collections under this head for the last 20 years.

"The Board will observe from paragraph 2 of the Sanad, dated 19th April 1825, which accompanied the letter adverted to in paragraph 7, that the annual payment made by the Jahgirdar is not viewed in the light of a Peshkash bearing a relative proportion to assets. It may, therefore, be deemed a special case requiring the special consideration of the Government, whether any remission proportionate to the value of the tax should be made in this instance. The annual payment or Nazer, as it has been usually termed, amounting to Rupees 10,000, is probably equal to a ninth of the entire beriz."

11. I have not been able to lay my hand on any correspondence which explains the principles on which the Peshkash was fixed at Rupees 10,000 nor do the Sanads granted in 1825 or 1853 (after the transfer of the Jahgir from South Arcot to this District) throw any light on this point. In paragraph 2 of their Proceedings, dated 12th September 1853, No. 341, the Board, however, I observe refer to a letter to Government, dated 31st January 1825, in which it is

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said the history of the Jahgir is succinctly sketched. This letter might probably be consulted with advantage; but as there is no copy of it on my records, I am unable to do more than indicate its existence.

12. The question of resuming the Mohturfa in the Arnee Jahgir is discussed in the correspondence noted in the margin, the 2nd letter in the list being Mr. Brett's communication of which I have elsewhere given extract. With the letter which stands last on this list were forwarded statements, showing the average collections of Mohturfa in the Jahgir during a period of 20 years ending with Fasli 1261. Here the matter appears to have dropped, and the Jahgirdar continues as heretofore to collect and appropriate the proceeds of the impost.

13. Under these circumstances, and considering how easy the tenure is on which this Jahgir is held, the proprietor could not to my mind challenge the right of Government to place him in respect of this impost on the same footing as the minor Zamindaris of Kangundi and Punganur.

14. In all the Polliems except in those of Karkambadi and Kristnapuram, the Mohturfa tax is under order dated 30th July 1830, No. 634, managed and realized by the Revenue authorities on account of Government.

15. The Karkambadi and Kristnapuram Polliems are kavel service Inams exempted from Jodi, but beyond copy of a document purporting to be a Proclamation issued in Fasli 1187 by Raja Beerbal Bahadur conferring exclusive right in the Mohturfa on the Poligar of the latter (Kristnapuram), there is nothing whatsoever on the records of my Office to show how these two properties came to form an exception to the usual rule.

16. As both these Polliems are situated in a wild and backward tract of country, the assets from this source are probably very insignificant, and it will be for Government to decide whether in their case, the question might not be over until the Inam Commissioner has settled under the Order of Government, dated 26th April 1860, No. 639, on what footing they are henceforward to be held now that the service for which they were originally granted is no longer required.

1. The above letter will have to be disposed of with the other replies to the Board's Circular on the question under consideration, when they are complete. But meanwhile the Board resolve to submit it for the information of Government with reference to their letter, dated 10th December 1860, as well illustrating the various phases, in which the question will eventually have to be regarded.

2. The Board would at the same time beg to refer Government to their Proceedings, dated 9th March 1826, on the subject of the Mohturfa revenue which contains much information on the general subject.

(A true Extract and Copy.)
(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, Acting Secretary.

No. 123. ORDER THEREON, 9th February 1861, No. 319.

1. The Board of Revenue submit a letter from the Collector of North Arcot on the subject of the Mohturfa collected by the Zamindars and other Proprietors in his District.

2. This letter is simply forwarded for the information of Government with reference to the Board's letter of 10th December last, No. 5,773. No final orders can be passed on this letter at present; and the Board will be referred to the instructions of Government issued in their Order of this date No. 318 on the Board's letter above referred to. The Government will await the Board's report and their recommendations on the subject of Mr. Robinson's letter.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,
Secretary to Government.

information on the general subject.
(Blue Extract Copy)

L. K. H. H.
Secy Secretary.

H. D. Smith Esq.
Secy Secretary to Government.
Revenue Department.

899

No final orders can be passed on this
at present, & it is not sent up for final
orders. It will be suffi. I presume,
to pass a return order, referring
the Pt. to the instructions now be-
ing issued on their letter of Dec. 10. (here-
-with enclosed) & saying that the
Govt. will accept their report &
recommendations on the subject of
this paper.

H. H. Jan 23

unshipped

Revenue 1861 Depart.
Des: of Govt for February.
N^o 96

Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue.

Dated 11th
Desp^d 11th
Rec^d 12th } January 1861.

N^o 183.

Submitting with
observations a letter from the
Collector of North Arcot report-
ing the names of the Zemin-
daries and Mootahs in the
District in which Moturpha
is legally and permissively
collected by Proprietors.

For order

See note at the end

W/M

N^o 319. 9th February

Rev: Sept^r

N^o 319.
Proceedings of the Government of Madras
under date 9th February 1861

Read the following Proceed-
ings of the Board of Revenue
(see entry 11 January 1861
no 183)

The Board of Revenue
submit a letter from the
Collector of N. Arcot on the
subject of the Michtaraphah
collected by the Zemin-dars &
other Proprietors in his Dis-
trict -

2 This letter is simply for-
warded for the information
of Government with reference
to the Board's letter of 10th
December last, ^{N^o 5743.} on the sub-
ject of the abolition of Micht-
taraphah in ^{all} the Zemin-daries
on the passing of the Bill
for imposing duties on Trades
& Professions.

No final order can
be

be noted on this ^{letter} subject
at present, - & the Board will be
~~as implicitly referred to the~~
~~instructions of Govt. placed on~~
~~date on their letter of~~
in their order of this date ^{on the}
Board's letter above referred
to -

~~8th December 1868~~ 5773.

The Government will await
the Board report & their
recommendations on the
subject of W. Robinson's
letter -

[Signature]

[Signature]

25/12

13 Copies
To the Board of Revenue.
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10/22/123.

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10/1/93
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mindaris -

22/10-1/12/100
Revenue 1861 - Sept 10
and of Govt for February
No 319.
D. of the Allahabad Govt
279 - February 1861.
D. of the Govt of India, 29/26.
Aug 1/61 288 2087 with 35-2500
D. of the Govt of India 28/26 27/61
No 319 - 1865-26000 - 2000

10/1/100
10/1/100
This must wait for the
other hand and