M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 586 Press ~~Mis.~~

238-239

Dated 13-3-1861.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
13th March 1861.

No. 238. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Political Department, dated 9th March 1861, No. 141 :—

Make remarks on a letter from the Government Agent at Ganjam requesting to be furnished with some definite indication of the species of Authority he is to exercise in the affairs of the Zamindárs of the District. (Vide Political Proceedings, 9th March 1861, Nos. 14, 15.)

No. 239. ORDER THEREON, 13th March 1861, No. 586.

Ordered to be communicated to the Board of Revenue for information.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Deputy Secretary to Government.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from G. S. FORBES, Esq., Agent to the Governor of Fort Saint George in Ganjam, to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Chetterpore, 13th February 1861.

An Order of Government, No. 259, dated 1st February, which has this day reached me through the Board of Revenue, obliges me to request the Governor in Council will be pleased to furnish for my guidance some definite indication of the species of authority I should exercise as their Agent in the affairs of the Zemindars of this District.

I enclose a spare copy of the Order in question for reference—it communicates, as Government will observe, their disapprobation of the course I pursued in reference to one Chudamani Nippako, Patro, or Dewan of Jarada, an Estate then under wardship. The minor of Jarada having left Chetterpore to visit his Estate was reported too ill to return, which was actually the case. Subsequently a report became general that the Dewan, a man of no good reputation, was tampering with his health, and that symptoms of mental imbecility, (the result of drugs used to stimulate the passions prematurely,) had shewn themselves. I removed the Dewan from the vicinity of the minor, (then the ward of Government) and placed him under a surveillance of the lightest description. The Government consider that a want of forbearance was shewn by me, but I respectfully put it to His Honor in Council to say what other course was open to me. The practices attributed to Chudamani Nippako are notoriously common among the attendants of Zemindars in this District, and circumstances gave colour to the charge. That I could trace no symptoms in the young Zemindar to prove it, and that his illness seemed to me to bear a different character would not I submit have exonerated me from the precautions I used, and I bring this matter again before the Government, because I really feel much embarrassed as to any future exercise of discretionary authority, if my conduct in this matter merits censure.

In paragraph 2 of their Order the Government refer me to the censure conveyed to me on the 7th May 1860. If it were worth while to trouble the Government with further explanations in that matter, and I were permitted to do so, I believe I could justify my proceedings to their satisfaction.

As this letter has direct reference to my functions as Agent, I address the Government through the Chief Secretary.

ORDER THEREON, 9th March 1861, No. 141.

The Government Agent at Ganjam requests that Government will be pleased to furnish for his guidance some definite indication of the species of authority which he should exercise as their Agent in the affairs of the Zemindars of the District.

2. This request is made in reference to the Order of Government, No. 259 of 1861, passed in the Revenue Department under date 1st instant. It appeared that the Agent had removed from the Jaradah Zemindary now under the Court of Wards, the Dewan of the Estate and had detained him under surveillance at Chutterpore and elsewhere, for what period Mr. Forbes did not explain, but which the man himself stated to have been five months.

3. Subsequently it was found that the charges on which the Dewan had been removed were for the most part without foundation, and that his general management had benefitted the Estate. The surveillance over him was consequently withdrawn.

4. In noticing these circumstances the Government cautioned the Agent to be more forbearing in the exercise of his summary powers under the Agency Act XXIV, 1839. They see no reason to modify this caution, and they do not consider that Mr. Forbes was justified in making the present application. As to furnishing Mr. Forbes with "some definite indication of the species of authority which he is to exercise," the Government must remark that the nature and extent of his authority as Agent were not called in question, but simply whether, on the occasion referred to, he had exerted that authority with all due forethought and circumspection.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Agent in Ganjam.
„ Revenue Department.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

R. 14th June /60 No. 224 & 225

R 1st February /61 — 7-8-

R 7th May /60 — 91 & 99

Revenue 1861 Sept
Pro: of Govt for March
No 647.

Proceedings of the Govt
Govt in Political
Department —

Dated 9th March 1861.
Recd 11th
No 141

Make remarks on a
letter from the Govt Agent
at Ganjam requesting
to be furnished with
some definite indica-
tion of the species of
authority he is to exer-
cise in the affairs
of the Zamindars of
the District.

No 586

Ordered to be com-
municated to the Board
of Revenue for informa-
tion.

Fort St George
13th March 1861

C & W

6 Copies to Mr Board of Revs. Dis P 14
with pro: Pol. Dept No. 141.

No 238 & 239.

No 586. 13th March
With an orde