

1
797

Revenue Department
Minutes of Consultation

15th June 1858

Back no 33 + 34

Order no 797 #110th June 1858

Sheet 8

2
#97

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 15th June 1858.

No. 33. Read the following Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Judicial Department, under date the 21st May 1858, No. 665.

Read the following letters.

From G. THORNHILL, Esq., Principal Assistant Collector and Agent in charge Ganjam District; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Chutterpore, 8th May 1858.

SIR,

1. Having been summoned by Mr. Lushington from Chicacole, and having assumed charge of the District on the 29th Ultimo, in accordance with the Government message received on that date, my attention was of course directed to the case pending against some of the public servants attached to the Cutcherry for the destruction of records, and it is with a view to solicit the instructions and advice of the Government as to the farther proceedings necessary to be taken in the case that I have the honor to lay a brief statement of it as it now stands before them.

2. The disputed right to the village of Boodeky was brought before me, as Principal Assistant Agent, when temporarily in charge of the Mohery Talook for the settlement of the Jumabundy in March 1857, (Mr. Knox, having taken the Jumabundy of the Sub-Division and deputed me to settle a portion of the Principal Division); some preliminary enquiries were made in my office when the Talook having been again transferred to the Collector the case was sent up to him.

3. Farther enquiries were instituted and references made by the Acting Collector who came to the conclusion that the village was Enam and that the Rajah had no claim to it, a letter to the Board to that effect was being prepared when the Rajah's Vakeel came forward and said some orders had not been shown to Mr. Knox and begged he would call for them. Mr. Knox made a note of them and called for them, and these proved to be the orders that had been interpolated.

4. The Vakeel of the opposite party then came forward and stated that the orders were not genuine. On examination Mr. Knox found this to be the case, and his enquiries led to the suspension and dismissal of the following servants:

Head Moonshee.....	P. Beemarow.....	Suspended.
Deputy do.	B. Soobarow.....	Dismissed.
Record Keeper.....	P. Bayhanashenkariah..	Suspended.
Assistant do.	Putry Vencatarow.....	do.
Record Peon	T. Lutchmenarrain.....	do.
Assistant Criminal Javabnevis	G. Gopalam.....	do.

To these were added by Mr. Lushington the Revenue Translator Lingam Letchmajee, suspicious circumstances having come to light in connection with the non-publication of the names of the suspended persons in the Gazette.

5. Subsequently Captain Smith, with the concurrence of Mr. Lushington as I understand offered pardon to the Zemindar* for his share in the transaction on the condition of his making a full disclosure himself and inducing his servants to do the same.

6. The Zemindar then made the following admission to Captain Smith, that he had sent Rupees 500 to Chicacole about 12 months ago to be expended in the Boodeky dispute by his Vakeel Chendraskroodoo and the barber Santosharoydoo, his confidential servant, accompanied by 2 Peons but that he does not know to whom it was paid.

That subsequently about 5 months ago he sent 2 Peons with 800 Rupees to the same men at Chutterpore for Cutcherry expenses and that again when the sum of Rupees 1,060 the result of the produce of Boodeky, kept in deposit at Berhampore was ordered to be paid to him, he received 300 Rupees only, 760 having been taken by his consent by the same men for farther Cutcherry expenses to Chutterpore. That he paid 100 Rupees to Aboor Sooriah the Vakeel of the Byragy, his opponent in the cause, and promised him 900 Rupees more in the event of the cause being favorably decided, which sum he deposited in the hands of a merchant whom he named and who on being called on by Captain Smith acknowledged the fact and gave up the money which is now in Captain Smith's keeping.

பாடுகாப்படி பிரதி-1

செப்பெய்தல் பெயர்: வி. கண்ணகி

செப்பெய்தல் காசு எடுத்தல் -
கொண்டப்பட்டு காசு

25/11/08
செப்பெய்தல்
காசு எடுத்தல்
கொண்டப்பட்டு

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Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 15th June 1858.

appointed to act for Mr. Lushington, I hesitate to adopt so extreme a course without farther instructions, more especially taking into consideration the nature of the evidence above rendered.

13. For it must be borne in mind that the men who now give information were originally defendants in the case and leading participators in the crime, and for long denied all knowledge of it, that the Zemindar himself denied all cognizance of the transaction repeatedly before the late Acting Collector and the Right Honorable the Governor himself.

14. Again, on the other hand it cannot be denied that until their characters are cleared, none of these men can be fairly trusted and a searching investigation must be instituted.

15. I have already taken steps to remove the most prominent men from the conduct of duties involving any great trust and shall continue to make such arrangements as may occur to me as best suited to protect the public interests; I have summoned the Sub-Sheristadar Santa Row and his establishment from Chicacole and shall place the department under the supervision of the Head Sheristadar Venkat Row, whose name has been mentioned favorably in connection with the enquiry by Mr. Knox, and whose integrity is most highly spoken of on all hands.

16. I have purposely abstained from any lengthened details and have endeavoured to condense the report as much as possible, but with the whole duties of the District to attend to, my time is limited, and I trust any prolixity may be overlooked.

17. In conclusion, I solicit the early instructions of Government for my guidance and trust that a favorable view of my conduct in the affair will be taken, and that the difficulties of my situation may not be forgotten; precluded as I have been from asking any advice from Mr. Lushington by the state of extreme debility in which I found him.

18. Involving proceedings of a criminal nature as well as of Revenue delinquency as this case does, I have taken the liberty of addressing the Government direct instead of through the Board of Revenue.

LIST.

1	To Palamanda Bheemarow, Head Revenue Moonshee...	Rs. 300
2	„ Lingum Letchmajee, Revenue Translator...	300
3	„ Banroo Soobarow, Deputy Revenue Moonshee...	300
4	„ Ayagara Shenkariah, Asst. do. do.	100
5	„ Tadapilly Seevaramiah, Head Translator...	50
6	„ Butchoo Nursmihawmy, Civil 2nd Goomastah...	20
7	„ Goondoomulla Venkatramdoss, Civil Head Goomastah...	50
8	„ Mungoo Termulrow, Criminal Assistant Javabniviss...	50
9	„ Nyapaty Ramachendra Row, Civil 3rd Goomastah...	30
10	„ Boorlah Juggiah (Vakeel)...	30
11	„ Pellalamary Codandaramiah, English Writer...	30
12	„ Palagoomah Chelmiah, Revenue Deputy Head Goomastah...	100
13	„ Colloor Seevarow, Sherista Goomastah...	25
14	„ Jemadar...	30
15	„ Duffadar P. Jugganaikloo...	20
16	„ Seetaramdoo and other Peons	20
17	„ Moochee	5
18	„ Aboor Sooriah (Vakeel)	40
		Rupees...1,500

AT CHICACOLE.

AT CHICAGO.										300
Cantarow, Sub Sheristadar...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	140
Butchoo Ramsawmy, Revenue Moonshee...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Jugganatdoss, Orey Moonshee...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
English writer, Cavessarapoo Venkatrutnam...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	500

Rupees... 2,000

(Signed) G. THORNHILL,
Principal Asst. Collector, &c., in charge.

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 15th June 1858.

7. The Zemindar after making this admission called his servants before Captain Smith and told them to tell the truth.

8. The barber Santosharoydoo then stated that about a year ago the case regarding the possession of Boodeky being before the Principal Assistant Collector, the Rajah sent himself and the Vakeel to Chicacole to prosecute his suit and gave 500 Rupees for the purpose, that two of the Rajah's Peons accompanied them, that at Chicacole they went to the Sub-Sheristadar Cantarow's house, that he said the business could not be done for less than 1,000 Rupees, but that eventually he agreed to do it for 500, that next day the money was paid to Cantarow and that for about 10 days they saw him daily and asked him to settle the business, that on one of those occasions the Moonshee and Orey Moonshee B. Ramasawmy and C. Juggunatdoss were sent for to make an abstract of the case, that Cantarow said the money was to be divided amongst them, that he then said the case must go to the Collector, but that a report favorable to the Zemindar should be made, that upon this the two came to Chutterpore and went to Bheemarow Head Moonshee about it, that he told them if the Zemindar made proper *bundobust* it could be settled in his favor, that they remained pressing the claim until October, when L. Letchmajee sent a Peon for them and that they went to his house when they found

Palumanda Bheemarow..... Head Moonshee.
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and two others, that Letchmajee produced some English papers and said the case had been decided against the Rajah so it was no use to take more trouble but that for 1,500 Rupees they would do their best to get it reversed, that in consequence the Vakeel wrote to the Zemindar and received 800 Rupees from him which was paid to Lingum Letchmajee in his house in the presence of Bheemarow, Soobarow, Shenkariah, the Head, Deputy and Assistant Moonshees, certain others being in an adjoining room but within hearing and parties to the transaction, the next day they went again and received a Memo. of certain orders which Letchmajee told them to beg the Collector to examine, the request was made and, upon that examination, orders were issued to make over the village to the Zemindar and to pay Rupees 1,060 the result of last year's produce, up to that time kept in deposit in the Berhampore Tahsildar's hands. Out of that 1,060 Rupees the Rajah ordered 700 to be paid to the Vakeel to complete the 1,500 Rupees, 60 Rupees for their own expenses and 300 Rupees to be sent to himself. The 700 Rupees was paid at Letchmajee's house as before in the presence of the same persons. On this occasion the Vakeel asked for a list of the men to whom the money had been paid and Letchmajee accordingly dictated to him while he wrote; that if he were to see the list he could say exactly who were present.

9. This list the Vakeel informed Captain Smith was at Berhampore in his box, and bore the signature of himself and the barber, that if permitted he would send his brother for it, himself and the barber remaining under charge of Peons until its arrival; it was sent for and delivered to Captain Smith; a translation of this list is attached.

10. The statement of the Vakeel confirms that of the barber, the statements of two of the Rajah's Peons have been taken, one of them fully confirms the account of the transaction at Chutterpore, the others, partially, that at Chicacole, some other corroborative evidence on minor points has also been recorded.

11. It will be seen from the above that the leading parties to the transaction at Chutterpore are already under suspension, they have all been sent to Russelcondah with Captain Smith whom I found on my arrival conducting the enquiry and whom I have therefore requested to continue to do so. It will also appear that the transaction at Chicacole having taken place many months before the extraction and interpolation of the Records, the parties to it, are as far as can be now determined, only chargeable under the Revenue Regulation.

12. I am now most anxious to learn the wishes of Government regarding the farther prosecution of the case. To suspend every one named in the list, the course advocated by Captain Smith, would so cripple the establishment that the current business of the office would be much retarded, and, situated as I am, merely in charge of the District until the orders of Government are received, uncertain from day to-day whether I may not be immediately relieved by some one

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 15th June 1858.

From G. THORNHILL, Esq., Principal Assistant Collector and Agent in charge Ganjam District; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Chutterpore, 10th May 1858.

SIR,

Adverting to my letter of yesterday, I have the honor to add some farther remarks on the impolicy of suspending so large a body of public servants before the arrival of the Officer who may be appointed to act for Mr. Lushington.

2. It will I think be highly desirable that all, or almost all, the vacancies which may now occur should be filled up by persons from a distance and unconnected with the District, there will then be some chance of breaking up the parties which now occupy the District and almost set at defiance the efforts of the European Officers to get at the real state of affairs around them.

3. The weight which the Native Officials themselves attach to this party power cannot be better illustrated than by quoting a passage from a petition which I have just received from Lingum Letchmajee the suspended Translator, he writes "perhaps the fact that the public servants are of two parties and that all new comers attach themselves to the one or the other according to adventitious circumstances is unknown to you and to Mr. Lushington. Although the leading members of one of these parties are out of office yet they are not politically dead, their constituents in office are always inspired by them, their machinations assume various shapes when they are leagued against their unfortunate opponents, and if any of their European superiors espouse their cause, their destruction is sealed," &c.

4. Such is the description of these parties by one of themselves, it is as true of one side as the other, and as it would be impossible to carry on the duties of the District, with all the suspected men suspended, without filling up their places, so it would be impossible to fill up their places, on the spot, without strengthening the hands of the opposite party, who if not so corrupt as those now suspected, are still far too influential to hold office in numbers with benefit to the public good, and even if the appointments were but temporary they could not be made without seriously hampering the movements of any Officer desirous of filling the posts from without.

5. With the public service in this state the introduction of one or two strangers is of no good, they are obliged even if naturally well disposed "to attach themselves to one party or the other," and soon become involved in its intrigues.

6. I would at the same time point out the very inadequate salaries attached to many of the leading officers in the Cutcherry, and would very respectfully urge the necessity of a speedy revision of the Moyan Tabitah. How can a Head Revenue Moonshee be honest on 35 Rupees a month, or the Revenue Moonshee in the Principal Assistant's office on 25 Rupees a month? The rates of pay were fixed when the District was proverbial for its cheapness, but now the necessities of life cost as much here as elsewhere and residence here is looked upon as banishment by the inhabitants of other places.

7. Without some promise of a speedy change in this respect be held out, it will be difficult to induce respectable men who have any prospect, however remote of promotion in more favored Districts to accept office here.

The above letters relate to the case of certain Native public servants in the Ganjam District, charged with corrupt and fraudulent actions in connection with the village of Boodeky in the Moherry Talook.

2. The charges were first investigated by the late Acting Collector Mr. W. Knox, who dismissed one servant and suspended five others. Subsequently Mr. T. D. Lushington dismissed or suspended another. The Assistant Agent Captain Smith with Mr. Lushington's concurrence offered a pardon to the Zemindar of Chinna Kimeddy for his share in the transaction on condition of his making a full disclosure himself and inducing his servants to do the same. The Zemindar thereon and his servants have made statements to the effect that the large sums have been expended as bribes to several of the Cutcherry servants. The inquiry was conducted by the Assistant Agent in consequence of the Agent being prevented by illness from undertaking it, and Captain Smith, for what reasons the Government do not understand, has taken all the accused parties with him to Russelcondah.

3. The acts charged are the falsification of the Revenue records, and receipt of bribe which clearly fall under the fourth and first Clauses of offences specified in Section II. Regula-

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tion IX. 1822. It does not, however, appear whether it was the intention of Mr. Knox, and after him of Mr. Lushington, to proceed against the servants under that Regulation, or simply to confine themselves to the dismissal of such of them as might appear guilty from the public service. Whichever be the case, the matter is not one with which it is in the province of the Government to deal. If Regulation IX. 1822 is to be resorted to, the course to be followed is clearly laid down in that Regulation. If the parties are to be dismissed, their cases with full explanation should be submitted to the Board of Revenue.

4. Mr. T. J. Knox immediately on his joining the District will complete so much of the inquiry as may yet be unfinished, and will then act in the manner directed in the preceding para.

(True Extract and Copies.)

(Signed) T. PYCROFT, *Chief Secretary.*

No. 34.

ORDER THEREON, No. 797; dated 10th June 1858.

Ordered to be communicated to the Board of Revenue.

(Signed) W. H. BAYLEY,
Acting Secretary to Government.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation under date the 21st May 1858.

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(Signed) G. THORNHILL,
Principal Assistant Collector, &c., in charge.

From G. THORNHILL, Esq., Principal Assistant Collector and Agent in charge Ganjam District; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Chutterpore, 10th May 1858.

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Adverting to my letter of yesterday, I have the honor to add some farther remarks on the impolicy of suspending so large a body of public servants before the arrival of the Officer who may be appointed to act for Mr. Lushington.

2. It will I think be highly desirable that all, or almost all, the vacancies which may now occur should be filled up by persons from a distance and unconnected with the District, there will then be some chance of breaking up the parties which now occupy the District and almost set at defiance the efforts of the European Officers to get at the real state of affairs around them.

3. The weight which the Native Officials themselves attach to this party power cannot be better illustrated than by quoting a passage from a petition which I have just received from Lingum Letchmajee the suspended Translator, he writes "perhaps the fact that the public servants are of two parties and that all new comers attach themselves to the one or the other according to adventitious circumstances is unknown to you and to Mr. Lushington. Although the leading members of one of these parties are out of office yet they are not politically dead, their constituents in office are always inspired by them, their machinations assume various shapes when they are leagued against their unfortunate opponents and if any of their European superiors espouse their cause, their destruction is sealed," &c.

4. Such is the description of these parties by one of themselves, it is as true of one side as the other, and as it would be impossible to carry on the duties of the District, with all the suspected men suspended, without filling up their places, so it would be impossible to fill up their places, on the spot, without strengthening the hands of the opposite party, who if not so corrupt as those now suspected, are still far too influential to hold office in numbers with benefit to the public good, and even if the appointments were but temporary they could not be made without seriously hampering the movements of any Officer desirous of filling the posts from without.

5. With the public service in this state the introduction of one or two strangers is of no good, they are obliged even if naturally well disposed "to attach themselves to one party or the other," and soon become involved in its intrigues.

6. I would at the same time point out the very inadequate salaries attached to many of the leading offices in the Cutcherry and would very respectfully urge the necessity of a speedy revision of the Moyan Tabitah. How can a Head Revenue Moonshee be honest on 35 Rupees a month, or the Revenue Moonshee in the Principal Assistant's office on 25 Rupees a month? The rates of pay were fixed when the District was proverbial for its cheapness, but now the necessities of life cost as much here as elsewhere and a residence here is looked upon as banishment by the inhabitants of other places.

7. Without some promise of a speedy change in this respect be held out, it will be difficult to induce respectable men who have any prospect, however remote of promotion in more favored Districts to accept office here.

The above letters relate to the case of certain Native public servants in the Ganjam District, charged with corrupt and fraudulent actions in connection with the village of Boodeky in the Moherry Talook.

2. The charges were first investigated by the late Acting Collector Mr. W. Knox, who dismissed one servant and suspended five others. Subsequently Mr. T. D. Lushington dismissed or suspended another. The Assistant Agent Captain Smith with Mr. Lushington's concurrence offered a pardon to the Zemindar of Chinna Kimeddy for his share in the transaction on condition of his making a full disclosure himself and inducing his servants to do the same. The Zemindar thereon and his servants have made statements to the effect that the large sums have been expended as bribes to several of the Cutcherry servants. The inquiry was conducted by the Assistant Agent in consequence of the Agent being prevented by illness from undertaking it, and Captain Smith, for what reasons the Government do not understand, has taken all the accused parties with him to Russelcondah.

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3. The acts charged are the falsification of the Revenue records, and receipt of bribe which clearly fall under the fourth and first Clauses of offences specified in Section II, Regulation IX, 1822. It does not, however, appear whether it was the intention of Mr. Knox, and after him of Mr. Lushington, to proceed against the servants under that Regulation, or simply to confine themselves to the dismissal of such of them as might appear guilty from the public service. Whichever be the case, the matter is not one with which it is in the province of the Government to deal. If Regulation IX, 1822 is to be resorted to, the course to be followed is clearly laid down in that Regulation. If the parties are to be dismissed, their cases with full explanation should be submitted to the Board of Revenue.

4. Mr. T. J. Knox immediately on his joining the District will complete so much of the inquiry as may yet be unfinished, and will then act in the manner directed in the preceding para.

(True Extract and Copies.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Agent to the Governor of Fort St. George in Ganjam.
" Revenue Department.

Ed. F. Cartledge.

Procure 1838 & 1841
to 1841

835

Extract from the return
of food in the kitchen
Report to the Board.

March 21

1838

Extract from the return
of food in the kitchen

March 21

Procure 1838 & 1841
to 1841
March 21
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1838
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