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(not for publication)

THE FOUNDING OF BRITISH RULE

A SOUTH INDIAN MISCELLANY

VM XIII

(Compiled : Dharampal)

1966-68

XIII.1

June 26, 1707 (Thursday)

Survey of Street Ordered

There having been lately a dispute between the Right and Left hand cast that live in the Patta about passing some street on occasion of their weddings in so much that the Governour was obliged to order guards to lye out to keep the peace to prevent further disturbance it is agreed that Mr Rawerth, Paymaster takes with him the Gunner and Serapa and Barrain heads for the IMH/hand /Right cast and Colleyway and Vincaty Chittys head for the Left hand cast and that they survey the Pattas and consider what method may be taken to prevent any further disputes of the like nature and report the same to the Governour and Council.

Thursday, July 17, 1707.

Mr Rawerth and the Gunner as also the head of the Right and Left hand casts report that they surveyed the Patta according to an order of consultation of the 26th past month and produced a draught of all the streets and buildings in the Patta which shewed us what streets were chiefly inhabited by the Left hand cast, being Bridge Gate street and that which is commonly called the chief peens street wherein lives but few of the Right hand cast so to preserve the peace between the two aforesaid casts for the future, we hereby order that these few of the Right hand cast in the aforesaid-mentioned streets sell their houses and go and live in the streets among their own casts and that these two streets are peculiarly appropriated for the left hand cast to pass in at their making their weddings and festivals and that none of the Right hand cast give them the least disturbance in that precinct at their utmost peril and, it is further hereby ordered that neither cast may pretend ignorance of their limits that the Paymaster sets up four stones at the cost of the Left hand cast according as we have directed him in the draught and inscribe thereon in English and Gentue the purport of this our order.

Thursday, 14 August 1707

The Governour acquaints the Council that on the 12th at night some disaffected persons to the Government had pasted papers on the stones sett up in the Patta which strited the boundary of the Left hand cast as per consultation the 17th past month which papers were wrote in the Mallabarr language and now produced the translate of which is as entered after the consultation, they also layd at the feet of the stone a sort of an enchantment as is esteemed in this country, six pieces of scull with rice and ether mixure. From translate of the paper is easily to be inferred that some Europeans have had a hand in it there being expressions that these people are wholly strangers to, of which we having

considered we are come to the following result, that a paper be fixed on each stone, in all languages as also on the gates in the English and Black town that if any person or persons shall come into and inform us of person or persons (who) have fixed the aforementioned paper on these pillars they shall have one hundred pagodas reward and his pardon if concerned therein. The heads of the Right hand cast were sent for before us who being charged with having a hand in writing these papers, which they denied, agreed that a month's time be given them to find out the person or persons who wrote this and if they don't they are to find such a sum of money as the Governor and Council think fit and this they were acquainted with.

The following paper was put on the stones in the street given to the Left hand cast:

Since the foundation of the city no such thing has been known, By the authority of the Government and prevalence of money this pillar was erected in contempt and derision of the Right hand cast who will forfeit the right of their cast if they do not destroy the others like dogs and tumble them down, and if it be demanded by whose orders this was written it is by the will of the king of England and the Company who will not fail to bring these things to pass and this is by way of caution.

July 15, 1715

The disputes between the casts at Fort St David as related in their letter of the 7th instant is taken into consideration, and the President acquaints the Board with the opinions of several of our ancient and experienced inhabitants here, that no innovations ought to be permitted.

Agreed that the customs of the casts do remain as they were formerly settled by Mr Hatsell and Council, when we first possessed the place, and that all aggressors to disturbances be severely punished.

January 13, 1716

Nicholas walker centinel of this garrison petitioning for discharge in order to go for England upon the ships now dispatching: agreed that his petition be granted, and he a drunken useless fellow.

July 28, 1718

Ordered that the justices of the cheultry have liberty to fix up a paper at the gates that all persons who put criminals upon the cheultry and do not appear to prosecute them when the justices meet

XIII. 2

Madras Governor Thomas Pitt to Thos Cooke: Dec 15, 1707

Hon'ble Sir

The foregoing is a copy of what I wrote to you by the Danes ship since we have little to add but what you will be fully informed of in the General Letter; where you will read the unspeakable trouble we have had about the casts, who are bitterer one against another, than ever I have heard or seen of Wigg and Tery, for whereas some trades are peculiar to one cast and (not) other, they will not work for one another, nor speak to one another in the streets; and I can't in my conscience but think, but Fraser drawn in by Timmapa and his Dubash, has chiefly contributed to it (ff 81 a) for the reasons you will read in our consultations and charge against him; in the latter there is a material instance omitted which is that the deserters refused the accepting the pardon, unless it was signed by Fraser and he reinstated. Besides (there is) a general saying amongst the poor people when they are threatened with punishment for what they had done they answered that the second was of their side, and since their returne I find that Timmapa drew, not only the pardon, but all the scandalous papers that were sent us and thrown about in which are expressions, that I have often heard from Fraser; I have him now in prison, on account of debt, and Surapa has been lately very much sick, who in few days shall be in jayle and Sunca Rama shan't escape. These three I find to be at the bottom of this villany, and the chief promoters of it and, the latter I am informed has paid the charge. But I will take care he shall not be reimburs'd in my time, and I resolve to make these three such examples, as shall deter others from ever doing the like, and I did propose, the Dutch method, when it first broke out, which was to have cutt their heads off in the fort, at night, and have put their bodies into chests, and have sent them off to sea, but your weak council, all of which God knows deserves that character except Rawerth, have exhibited a nation, destructive to (81 b) Government in these parts; which is, that no native is to be cutt off, let his crime be what it will, but by a fermal tryall, in which time a Government may be undone, and had we taken course, we had quell'd them in four and twenty hours; and prevented them attempting the same againe, we had not given out a pardon see seen as wee did, only that we expected the Nath up the beginning of September, and wanted the boats to lead her, or otherwise she would have been lost in the menseen. But I took care to mention in it that everything was to go according to custome, and none so old as them paying obedience to the Governor and Council's order. Besides they have made it invalid, by not returning upon the receipt of it, after which too they committed several insolences, for which by degrees they shall be rewarded, and yet hope in two or three months to work them into such a temper as that there shall be a firme friendship between them as ever, and the source of this feud has been from that altering the method of investments by which you have shed out the Right Hand cast, who never can nor will make any, but by advancing mency, which must never be done againe, if you can possibly avoid it.

XIII.3

Letter from Mr. Revell, Manager of South Division
of Havelly (P.460-61) (Extract)

.....the inhabitants of Parralah are willing either to walk or to mark whichever may be agreed on, and as this mode has always been esteemed as the only method of terminating such disputes and is considered as to carry the solemnity of an oath with it, I trust it will meet with your assistance.

Sent the following letter to the Nabob, agreeable to a resolution of last Consultation, ~~to the Nabob~~.

To the Nabob,

May it please your Highness.

On the 5th March, I had the honour of address you fully on the subject of a dispute between the inhabitants of Parralah and Chirralah, and your Highness acquiesced in the mode proposed of adjusting the matter ~~of~~ by arbitration.

I am, however, ~~concerned~~ concerned to acquaint you that the difference in question was not terminated by the arbitrators chosen, who divided, it appears, into parties, five declaring in favour of one village, and an equal number supporting the claims of the other. The Chief and Council at Masulipatam have recommended, as this mode proved entirely without effect, that the inhabitants of both villages should walk their boundary in the month of November at the full of the moon; and, as this practice has commonly been used in singular instances, and is considered among such people to have a degree of solemnity, (1506) I request your Highness will give directions

India Office Records: Madras Revenue Consultations:
P/274/44: Manner of Settling Boundary Disputes in ~~uncultivated~~
Villages

5
to the Manager of Ongle for having it carried
into execution; and do me the favour to furnish
with a copy of your orders to be forwarded to
the Chief and Council at Masulipatam.

I have the honour to be, may I please
your Highness,

Your Highness Most sincere,

Most Obedient, and

Most Humble Servant,

(Signed) Archibald Campbell

Fort St. George
4 Oct. 1787

XIII. 4

Disputes between the Right and Left Hand Castes at Ramnadi

The Board of Revenue to Government (pp. 6854-6855, dated 15.7.1796):

We have also the honour to lay before your lordship extracts from a correspondence which has passed with Mr. Powney respecting some disputes that have occurred between the right and left hand casts. From the circumstances stated by the collector it evidently appears that the latter were the aggressors; and he has pointed out the two persons at whose particular instigation the disturbance were committed. The punishment recommended of perpetual banishment from the country, admits we are of opinion of mitigation, considering (n. 6855) that the dispute was of a religious nature, regarding the performance of awkward ceremonies. But so direct a disobedience of the collectors authority requires to be punished. If a heavy fine be levied upon Sobramoney and Mootoo Campah and they be obliged to find security for their good behaviour in 500 Pagodas each we trust that it will be a sufficient warning to both parties to refrain from the commission of any similar irregularities in future. If they cannot procure such security it may then be indispensably necessary for the peace of the country to adopt the collectors recommendations.

Government to the Board of Revenue: pp. 7141-42:

We agree in the opinion you have expressed upon the disputes of the right and left hand casts at Ramnad, (n. 7142) we desire therefore you will direct the Collector to levy a fine of 200 Pagods upon Sobramony, and Mootoccurapah, and oblige them to find security, each in 500 pagodas, for their good behaviour. Should they however fail to give security we consent that they shall be banished by the Collector from that province.

India Office Records: Madras Board of Revenue Proceedings: P/235/33.

Board of Revenue to the Collector of
Rannad (no. 7198):

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th ultimo with its enclosures, respecting the disputes of the right and left hand casts at Rannad, and to transmit for your information and guidance extract from the Board's letter to Government with their reply.

I am Sir
Your most obedient servant
S.R. Lushington
Acting Secretary

Fort St. George
4th August, 1796.

XIII 5

Read the following letter from the Collector at Mayaveram.

Edward Saunders, Esq.,
President and the Members of the
Board of Revenue,
Fort St. George.

Gentlemen,

It is a custom of untraceable antiquity in the Tanjour country for the inhabitants of every village to pay their devotions to "Peiddaury" or "the Village God" preparatory to cultivating the lands in doing which various ceremonies are performed invoking the Deity to reward their labour with a plentiful harvest, which conclude by making a circuit round the limits of their respective villages beating Tom Toms, carrying flowers, and many other symbols in token of their mirth.

A few days ago, the inhabitants of the village of Seerapogeerajapoorum situated in (4620) the Valungum Puttuckum, in performing the ceremony of making the circuit cut down a portion of tree ^{plantain} belonging to the neighbouring village inhabited by Bramins, which trespass was considered by them as a piece of wanton impertinence and gave birth to the improper resolution of retaliation upon their neighbours by cutting down two plantain trees, in their village, and which they accordingly effected instead of preferring a complaint to the Cutwal, the regular and sure way of getting a redress of grievances. In consequence of ^{this} this retaliation of the Bramins, the other villagers equally disregarding the Government, went in a body to the Bramin's village and cut down fourteen plantain trees. The act, it was the intention of the Bramins to retaliate by cutting down double that number in their opponent's village, and were proceeding in a body armed with sticks for that purpose, when they were met by the other villagers armed in the similar way to check their progress. Here high words ensued, which were succeeded by blows, and I am (4621) concerned to inform you that before I received intelligence of what was going forward, seven of the Bramins were

India Office Records: Madras Board of Revenue Proceedings dated 19th May 1796: Caste Dispute in Tanjore

severely wounded, one of whom died four days ago having had his skull fractured in two places, the six others are in a fair way of recovery.

I have secured one of the persons who is said to have struck the deceased Bramin, the other effected his escape, and has not since been heard of. I have taken several depositions from different persons belonging to those villages, which together with the prisoner, I humbly recommend may be delivered over to the Rajah, being agreeable to the mode observed in regard to criminals during the assumption of the country.

I have the honour to be very respectfully,
Gentlemen,

Your most Obedient Humble Servant

Signed) Fran. Alex. Grant
Collector

Mayaveram
15th May 1796.

Agreed (4622)

XIII-6

To

The Secretary to Government
in the Revenue and Judicial
Department,
Fort St. George

Sir,

Early in the month of December accounts reached me of a most horrible massacre having been committed in Cotta Bommally in the Bommally Estate in this Zillah in which several persons lost their lives, others were wounded and the village burned by some people of the cast of peons who had been sent for by me to answer to a complaint that had been preferred against them by the servants of the late proprietor the deceased Goday Juggarow.....

(p.322) 2. It will be satisfactory to His Lordship-in-Council to understand that several of the perpetrators of this heinous breach of the peace are in confinement & for trial before the court of circuit and that I am not without hopes of being able to apprehend others who have for the present ^{secluded} sequestered themselves in the jungle.

.....P. Cherry
(Magistrate and
Zillah Judge)

Ganjam
6th February, 1806.

From S. Bout Flower, Assistant Magistrate to
Cherry Ragoonautapooram 8.12.1805, pp.327-32
Extract*:

2. Rumours, in my progress to this, reached me for the cause of this deviation from tranquillity in the district and I am enabled from the vicinity of this village, to the scene of cruelty, to acquaint you that, it must be accounted for from a quarrel you were advised of, by Vencatachellum, on the 18th ultimo, and consequent summons on that account issued from the office.

India Office Records: Madras Judicial Consultations: P/322/9: Incident at Ganjam: Consultations 28.2.1806 pp.322.339
Reply of Government pp.377-8: (Extract)
* Cherry's letter to the Assistant Magistrate dated 5.12.1805 is on pp.324-7:
Number of killed was 15 and the number wounded 15 (p.331).

From S. Bout Flower, Assistant Magistrate
to Cherry, 10.12.1805 (pp.332-4):

The very confirmed intelligence that had been received from Tripatiah induced me to send to him again also and having received his reply, I have the pleasure to enclose it, by which you will observe that no doubt can be entertained respecting the cause of this very deplorable catastrophe for though they evidently considered themselves defrauded by withholding the stipulated pay for some time before; a degree of moderation might be traced till the summons from the office was shewn them and it will appear that even then they behaved in (p.334) a becoming manner till the reflection of punishment being likely to overtake them brought them at once to a determination of putting a period to their own existence and all those who had been the innocent means of their supposed disgrace.

Decision of Government:

Resolved to acquaint the Zillah Judge at Ganjam that the Board entirely approve the steps taken by him to apprehend the perpetrators of the massacre at Gotah Somaly. Resolved also to authorise payment..
.....

XIII.7

To

The Judge and Magistrate of the
Zillah of Manargoody.

Sir,

I am directed by the Right Hon'ble the Governor-in-Council to transmit the enclosed copy of a letter received from the Officer Commanding at Nagapatam relative to some outrages committed at that place which are stated to have been instigated by some men of opulence residing there, and to state the surprise of His Lordship-in-Council that you have not reported for His information the circumstances connected with the late very extraordinary (n.471) proceedings and the result of the measures which you adopted on the reference made to you by Lt. Sober.

I have the honour to be
Sir your most obedient
servant

E.C. Greenway
Secretary to Government

Fort St. George
14th February, 1807.

India Office Records: Madras Judicial
Proceedings:
Christian Hindoo Dispute at Manargoody (also 749-68)

XIII .8

Read the following letters from the Judge and Magistrate at Manargoody.

To
The Judicial Secretary
to Government
Fort St. George

Sir,

I have been honoured by the Right Honourable Governors Commands conveyed in your letter of the 14th instant which I received yesterday. It has not been in my power to make so full a report of the proceedings at Nagapatam as the Commanding Officer at that place has done: and knowing that he had sent to Government an (750) account of the outrage. I did not conceive it necessary to communicate what I had learnt from him until the issue of any attempts to discover and punish the offenders should be known. In consequence of the Commanding Officer's letter No.1 together with No.2 received from the Cutwal, I removed the latter and appointed another person whom I ordered to collect such information as would show what particular individuals had been the instigators of the late disturbances. I have since heard nothing from him on the subject and have reason to think that his silence proceeds from the Christians not coming forward to give their evidence.

The letters No2, 4 and 5 have since passed between Lieutenant Sober and myself and I have taken no further steps of any kind. I certainly cannot conceive the impossibility of a few of the injured persons making their appearance before me or at least of their making out a more particular account (in English if they please) than that enclosed in Lieutenant Sober's letter No.3. It does not appear to me that I have as yet received any document which would authorise the apprehension of (751) any of the persons supposed to be the movers in the late affray. If I have erred, I trust that His Lordship will pardon my want of judgement and be pleased to

India Office Records: Madras Judicial Proceedings
Dated 20th March 1807: P/322/19: Dispute between
Hindoos and Christians at Negapatam

point out the mode in which my future proceedings are to be carried on.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant

Thos. Townsend
Magistrate

Manargoody
25th February 1807.

To

Thomas Townsend, Esq.
Chief Magistrate of Manargoody District.

Sir,

Agreeable to your orders and signature which was brought me I told the Patnam people they were to prosecute their feast which I know, as well as the oldest Dutch gentlemen here, can ever it has ever been the custom without the smallest let or molestation. This day the feast of the three Kings commenced and last night between 10 & 11 o'clock at a choultry in the middle of the town about 2 or 300 were assembled by beat of Tam-Tam as if to convene more. (752) I thought it necessary to go down with a guard to enquire into the cause of this tumultuous meeting when on my approach the whole dispersed but on my visiting a second time the choultry, found then again assembled. A mob talking extremely loud, but going in the dark I caught five or six among the croud before they could get away.

I am well informed that the higher cast are sensible and acknowledge the right these people have to prosecute their feast, but a few monied men and the lowest of the cast are the instigators. Their names are Gundapa, Chitty of Jaffna, who

originally was a Dutch slave and Saubrapillay, who has once been flogged for creating a disturbance, and Cundemah Cheety. They have caused the Buzar to be shut up and their people have taken the whole out of the same.

I am much apprehensive that the Cutwall is accessory to this. He was not in his Choutry nor does he know or will not tell who it was that (753) caused the ryot.

This day upon their begining the feast and to prevent any disturbance, I sent a guard to accompany the ceremony. ~~that~~ on my return from ^{h. but} thence to the glasses I saw assembled near 3 or 4,000 people armed with pikes, Bludgans, etc., etc. which required my returning for a guard which were stoned and some of the sepoys much bruized.

I think, Sir, your presence is absolutely requisite at this time. I am now surrounded by the mob although in this state I have kept my people from using violence towards them.

(Signed) E. Sobber
Lieutenant Commanding

Negapatam
4th February 1807.

(A True Copy)

Thomas Townsend
Magistrate

Translation of a letter from the Cutwall of Negapatam to the Judge and Magistrate in the Zillah of Mannargoody Dated 5th February 1807.

That when your sunnud was brought (754) by the Christian postmas (?) to me, I asked then a voucher binding thereby that they were to perform their feast according to the sunnud and their religion. They thereupon answered as they brought your sunnud they were not under the (objection) to ^{h. (obligation?)} give a voucher.

The very evening the Mahanadoo complained to me that the Christian Patnas were ready to go on with their play. I told the Mahanadoo that an order was given to them for executing agreeable to the sunned. They thereupon said that there in the sunned is prescribed to perform only the feast but not any act of play. I consequently told them should they carry on contrary to the sunned I would prohibit it.

I was moreover informed that Mr. Sober at ten O'clock in the night went with a few sepoy to the Mahanadoo and flogged them with bare swords and confined five of them. In the next morning, Mr. Sober sent for me and desired me to send for the said five persons and to take their names and release them. The Mahanadoo were collected together with sticks, and on my sending to them to know why they assembled, they replied we are here to prevent the Patnas coming (755) with the habit of our Rajah and making their procession through our street. Soon after they dressed and sat on the throne. Mr. Sober gave forty sepoy in order that the Mahanadoo might not molest them and he Mr. Sober went with a few sepoy to the Mahanadoo. But as soon as they saw him, they made a noise. Mr. Sober and the sepoy returned back and the said Patnas from the throne went to their Church. As the Mahanadoo were told the Patnas were in the habit of the Malabar Rajah. They ran in haste and finding them coming in haste Mr. Sober ordered to load the guns and keep in readiness against them.

Some of the Mahanadoo went and pulled down the theatre.

A True Translation

Thomas Townsend
Magistrate

Sir,

I have the honour to enclose a petition from the Patnah Christians who are afraid of (756) approaching your Court in case of their being way laid and murdered. Had you have come here every preparation was prepared to repel any

any authority you might have chosen to put in execution, which is publickly talked of in the Bazar.

I am,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant

(Signed) E. Sober
Lieutenant Commanding

Negapatam
15th February 1807

(A True Copy)

Thomas Townsend
Magistrate

To

The Judge and
Magistrate of the Zillah of
Mannaroody

The humble Petition of the
Christian Inhabitants of Negapatnam

Humbly Sheweth

That the following grievances of your (757) Petitioners call for that justice which the British Government holds forth to all its subjects who behave with respect and submission to its authority.

Your Petitioners preparing for the usual celebration of the annual festival in honour of the three Wise Kings of the East on the 6th January last and on finding an impediment of the Cutwal here, altho' the public proclamation (for mumul or customary feasts and ceremonies, etc., etc. be adopted) by beat of Tom-Tom, yet your Petitioners were obliged to obtain a sunnud for the purpose from your Magistrate in the name of said Cutwal dated 31st January 1807.

Your petitioners in consequence fixed upon the 4th instant for the festival and for the purpose had erected a large and handsome pandal.

Your petitioners with a view not to give any offence to other sects relinquished their first plan of going out of the town to adorn themselves for (758) the procession and therefore dressed themselves in their own houses and proceeded to the pandal, and from thence so soon the procession entered the Church, *a la* a great number of the Pariahs and Malabars, to the number of about 5,000 paraded the town, approached the Church walls, armed with sticks, etc. and in a most violent manner pelted with stones over and into the Church at the hour of the Divine Service, and in a most impudent manner insulted the Commandant by throwing stones at his House and at his sepoy, assaulted the pandal destroyed the same, and afterwards in a most disrespectful manner hauled down the English colour which was flying on the pandal, trampled upon the Flag and otherwise most shamefully dishonoured it. The mob then rehoisted the English flag under their own white colour as a mark of victory and then proceeded to the houses of your petitioners, plundered and broke several houses and took the jewels off the necks and ears of some of their women, but no steps were taken to put a stop to this violent conduct.

Your petitioners have to remark (759) that they conceive themselves entitled to the protection of the Government as long as they conduct themselves as peaceable subjects. They disclaim all intention to injure or vilify the religion of other casts, as your Magistrate signified in your said sunnud granted to your petitioners, and they hoped and expected a similar conduct towards their religion. The hatred and malice of the Negapatam inhabitants towards the Raman Christians has been known on every occasion of festivity to the Christians. The Malabars and Pariahs have been spirited up by their Chiefs Condapah Chetty, Subryah Pillay and others to commit violence upon people wishing to live in quiet and peace. Your petitioners, therefore, most humbly implore your Tribunal to enquire into the late proceedings and render them such justice as their case deserves. The loss of your petitioners is very great and they have

therefore a right for remuneration from the Heads of the casts who promoted the late violences and your petitioners have no doubt that upon strict and impartial investigation they will obtain that justice from (760) your Tribunal which characterises the British Government.

For this act of Justice,

Your petitioners will as in Duty bound

For Ever Pray

Negapatam
7th February 1807.

(141 signatures in Tamil)

To

The Officer Commanding,
Negapatam

Sir,

I have received your letters of the 4th and 15th instant, the latter enclosing a petition from the Patnum Christians. I can not but think that the apprehension of the Christians of being way laid and murdered on their way to the Court must be without due foundation. Their petition is also general instead of particular independant of its being unsubstantiated by path. Unless therefore they follow more regular means of obtaining the redress which appear to be due to them, it will not be in my power to afford them any assistance.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Most Obedient Servant

Manargoody
18th Feb 1807

(Signed) Thomas Townsend
Magistrate

(A True Copy) Thomas Townsend
Magistrate

(762)

To

The Judge of the Zillah Court
at Manargoody

Sir,

Yesterday evening, I received your letter of the 18th instant in reply to mine of the 4th and 15th. I am sorry you conceive the apprehension of the Patnar Christians to be without due foundation. For my part I conceive they have everything to apprehend from a class of people who without the smallest provocation committed the outrages they did on the 4th instant, who at noon day entered there houses forcibly, plundered them of their property and pelted with stones and brick bats, Mr. Oakes, your Register, at whom one man aimed a blow with a bludgeon luckily without effect, when he in the most gentle manner attempted to persuade them to return to their houses.

I am and was then fully aware that the native inhabitants are under the immediate authority and protection of the civil power or I should have taken such measures when they pelted my sepoys and attempted to seize myself as would in future prevent a repetition of such unwarrantable (763) conduct, had they even been insulted by the Christians. You will allow the assembling of a mob was improper to redress themselves when they had your Court to appeal to.

To avoid any disturbances at this place, I refused the Christians, when they applied to me to permit them to carry on their annual ceremony. They however afterwards applied to you and obtained your permission: thus so far they acted correctly and on the 4th notwithstanding the several provocations they behaved themselves in the most quiet and peaceable manner.

You state that their petition is unsubstantiated by oath. I must however observe that there is no Magistrate here to administer it. If there was I have reason to think from the declarations I have in my possession that they can produce evidence and witnesses sufficient to prove the facts already stated,

as well as many other circumstances you most probably are unacquainted with. Their petition is general and not particular, which with its not being substantiated by oath, is, you say, the reason you cannot afford them any assistance tho' it appears they deserve redress. The petition (764) could only (I believe) be general, but on an investigation they would detail particulars. Many of the witnesses (among whom are Malabars and Mussulmen) are afraid to declare either their own names or those of the promoters of the insurrection in the body of a public petition which most probably would fall into the hands of men particularly connected with the parties.

I cannot conclude without expressing my regret that these poor people who have been insulted and plundered of so much property and who conducted themselves with so much moderation from a conviction that they would obtain redress from the English Laws should be now disappointed.

Negapatam
21st February 1807

(Signed) E. Sober
Lieutenant Commanding

P. S. The insults offered by the Malabars to the British flag certainly deserve a most exemplary punishment independent of their other outrages.

(A True Copy)

Thomas Townsend
Magistrate

To

The Judicial Secretary of Government
Fort St. George

Sir,

In consequent of the enclosed extracts from a letter from the Officer Commanding at Negapatam I have addressed the Commercial Resident at Nagore desiring him not to grant Port clearances for

exporting grain unless for some parts of the Coast until the pleasure of Government should be made known. I thought it entirely out of the question to lay a general embargo on grain while Madras is in great want of it.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Most Obedient Servant

Manargoody
2nd March 1807

Thomas Townsend
Magistrate

Extract of a letter from the Officer
Commanding, Negapatam to the Judge
of Manargoody Zillah dated 28 Feb 1807

"I beg to inform you and that for a speedy relief, that there is neither rice or finams to be had (766) that the whole of the grain that comes into the Town is immediately housed and the proprietors are the greatest part of the European inhabitants which the Cutwal says he is sending you their names. If these Manargoody monopolizers are allowed to go on, A famine must issue. Altho' we can't get rice, Numerous boats are now loading for exportation and to carry it off the Coast.

I trust, Sir, you will answer me by the return of Tappal and relieve our present distress. The sepoys are beginning to complain and I conceive the only and readiest way to redress the present evil is to lay an embargo instantly and to prevent Port clearances being given for those loaded."

True Extract

Thomas Townsend
Magistrate

Resolution of
Government

Resolved to acquaint the Judge and Magistrate of the Zillah of Manargoody that the Board are not enabled to understand from the papers which he has forwarded the nature of the affray which occurred at Negapatam (767), and which was represented in a light extremely serious by the Officer Commanding at that station.

Resolved to observe that the facility with which one disorder leads to another ought to attract the earliest attention of the Magistrate on occasions of this nature with the view of repressing such disorders. As the preservation of the public tranquillity is an object of the first importance, and the Board would have been better pleased if the Magistrate had on the receipt of so earnest a representation from the Commanding Officer of Negapatam refrained to the spot and endeavored repaired in person to suppress the commotion which was stated to have taken place, the Board are led to conclude from his continued silence that the late disturbance has entirely ceased.

Resolved to approve the refusal of the Judge and Magistrate to lay an embargo on vessels exporting rice from the province of Tanjore and to desire that his request to the Commercial Resident at Nagore, that the issue of Port clearances, might be limited to vessels bound to some part on the Coast be withdrawn as such an interference (768) with the grain trade is unauthorised by the regulations and is contrary to the orders of Government.

Read the following letter from the
Principal Collector at Tanjore.-

To
The Chief Secretary to Government,
at Fort St. George

Sir,

I have the honour to enclose a copy of a letter which in consideration of the circumstances therein mentioned corroborated as (1096) they very fully have been to me I have deemed it proper to address to the Officer Commanding at Nagore.

I trust that the Right Honourable, the Governor in Council, on a consideration of the circumstances alluded to will approve of the measure which in the absence of the Judge and Magistrate from the spot, I have deemed myself authorised to take for the preservation of tranquillity in the town of Karikal.

I have the honour to be

Sir

Yours most Obedient Servant

Tents near Karikal
30th March 1807

J. Wallace
Principal Collector

To

The Officer Commanding,
Nagore.

Sir,

I have just received intimation from the European inhabitants at Karikal that (1097) since

India Office Records: Madras Judicial Proceedings
Dated 7th April 1807: P/322/10: Dispute between
Hindoos and Christians at Negapatam

the 27th instant the town has been constantly ~~sixt~~ disturbed by the disputes between the Malabar and Christian inhabitants. That last night among other outrages, a house was burned, as it is supposed by the rabble of the former's party, and that apprehensions are entertained that further and more serious disturbances will immediately occur if measures are not taken without delay to prevent them.

Under these circumstances, and the absence of the Judge and Magistrate I deem myself authorised, as one of His Majesty's Justices of the peace to take every step in my power to preserve the tranquility of the town, and as no measure appears to me better calculated at this instant to effect that object than the presence of a small military force (1098). I request that you will proceed to Karikal with a part of the Detachment under your Command, for the purpose by your presence of preventing a recurrence of the tumults which have occurred and untill the Judicial authority of the District can take measures for reconciling the differences to which they are attributed.

A copy of this letter shall be forwarded to the Secretary to Government for the information of the Government.

I am,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant
(Signed) J. Wallace

Varchagoody
30th March 1807

P. S. It will be regular for you to address all communications that you may wish to make on the above subject to the Judge and Magistrate of the Zillah of Combaconum.

A true Copy

J. Wallace

Ordered. ----

XIII.9

Explanation of the customary extortions and Device, etc., manufactured and made use of by the natives in India; called Collectors of Revenue and their Assistants, otherwise Taseeldars, Tanedars, Vackiels, Debashes, Harcarrans, Chubdars, Peons and Sepoys, etc. in the Circars of Masulipatnam.

These Collectors are mostly Brahmins and equal to the rest of their cast, in ~~secret~~ ^{secret} and villany to defraud their employers and deceive their countrymen. In order to be noticed by the Company's civil servants, they learn a little English and pay great attention to the Company's head interpreter; to him they are often found to be nearly related, and it is supposed they procure these appointments by promise of money when they have it, for generally Taseeldars, Tanedars, Vackiels and Debashes, notwithstanding they are ~~poor~~ ^{poor} themselves, are no sooner employed than they keep their palankeens, servants, peons, etc. and proceed into the Rajah's districts with a determination to receive and plunder all they can for themselves. On entering the first town, they press the Rajah's Coatwall, change their palankeen boys, coolies, and bullocks, and proceed on (agreeable to the Mogul custom as they call it) not paying for any one article during their journey, but force from the Ryott or village people all the provision they require for themselves and train. On Collectors or Taseeldars arrival at the Rajah's Capital or Fort he is visited by the Rajah's head Vackiel (who is by private instructions from his Master) to pacify these Collectors at the cheapest rate possible. This is a business the Rajah's Vackiel easily accomplishes, as there are not any of these kind of people, but what have their price, by which means the payment of the Company's revenue is delayed. In this situation it is supposed a Taseeldar would receive three Pagodas per day for Bazar expenses, a house to live in supplied with provision of all kinds for himself and attendants, and treated with the greatest respect on every occasion (2). But that of coming to real business for the good of the Company (which subject is always put off till the monsoon) its often known that 15 & 20 days have passed

John Ryland's Library, Manchester: Eng: Ms 685/1328/A-G

without the Company's Collector having had an audience with the Rajah, which when over has not been to any good effect. The Collector, instead of receiving what he might for the Company at his first visit, enters into a correspondence with the Board of Masulipatnam and the Rajah and himself agree to write to the same effect to understand each other to undermine the Company's service.

Its here that the Company suffers greatly as all the Rajahs and Collectors' letters are dispatched by Harcarrs, Chubdars or Peons and it will require ten days before any answer can arrive to their letters, and at some seasons of the year much longer; this Taseeldar is kept in his employ until his villaneous practices, which are various, are suspected by the Chief and Council, when he is relieved by another equally as bad, attended with a greater Retinue of Harcarrs, Peons & Sepoys; great things are expected from this man by the Board of Masulipatnam, but he assumes so much consequence, and behaves so infamous in travelling through the different towns, that the Rajah is very much displeased before his arrival. However, he is treated according to the power he brings, his Harcarrs, Peons and Sepoys are immediately put on full Batta. (an account of each person's emolument is herewith annexed). This Collector lives at no expense, nor is the Detachment at any cost for themselves except for rice and massall. It is now probable that the Rajah ^{with}, after this man has waited on or about ^{with} two months, pay the Company 10,000 Madras Pagodas. The lesser Rajahs in the different districts of the Circar will pay half the sum of their superior Rajahs, for altho' these Rajahs are utter enemies to each other, they will unite in any scheme whatever to delay the payment of the Company's great arrears of revenue, for it is the Rajah's wish to appear poor, and to detain at least one year's revenue in their possession. The Collector with his Sepoys etc. are quartered in the town, discipline is entirely at an end, the Jamedar puts off his (3) Regimentals and is quite the Gentleman and in the greatest friendship with the Collector; they use very effort they possibly can to extort money, and if not satisfied with the allowance of money and provisions, etc. provided by the Rajahs, they will in the name of the Company take possession of the Rajah's ~~front~~ gates, or house, and not suffer any communication ^{Foot} between him and his people until their wants are

supplied; the Rajah is threatened with having his country taken from him, his grain seized, and himself taken to the Presidency, etc. all which he has been told so often, that he disrards such threats; however not to be troubled, he relieves himself by supplying the wants of these men, and engaging the Collector to write to the Board that more money shall be sent as soon as the Rajah receives from the country his revenue; by this and the like excuses a Black Collector will remain many months in the district until the Chief and Council are tired out with his very infamous delay. Whatever presents these Taseeldars may receive, no one can possibly know, and allowing these men to have behaved ever so mercenary, it is never known that any of them has been publicly punished. The Rajahs will talk of the extortion made use of by the natives in the English service, but ~~we~~ they will not give any information to the Board of Masulipatnam. The Board therefore finding the arrears of revenue coming in extremely slow are under the necessity of forming a stronger detachment of sepoys to send into the Rajah's country, consisting of 3 companies, amounting to about 250 men, with two Serjeants, Drummers, fifers and a Captain or Lieutenant of Infantry. This officer is a gentleman of honour and integrity, and means the Company's good. He marches into the Rajah's districts with a full determination to collect for the Company all their arrears of revenue, but the misfortune is, he knows not anything of the disposition of the people he has to transact business with, and he is an entire stranger to the inhabitants of these tewns. No knowledge of the revenue of the country, or has he any account of arrears due to the Company. (4) His orders only explain that he is to compel the Rajahs to dispatch as many theusand Madras Pagodas to Masulipatnam as they are indebted to the Company; to do this he is well served with ammunition, etc. even to bullock loads (the expense of which is charged to the Company) tho' not the smallest probability of fighting, or least occasion for any extra charge after the Detachment has left Masulipatnam two days as may be observed from the abovementioned Customs of Taseeldars, or Native Collectors and sepoys to whom the Rajah pays Batta, etc. This officer has a Harcarrs and a Vackiel with him, but it must here be observed, very unfortunately for the Company that he is ignorant of the language of the Rajahs and natives that he is going to consequently obliged to employ his Debash, who now takes every opportunity

Stout?

of corrupting and deceiving his Master, imposing on the Rajahs and injuring the Company. First he advises his Master to have a Bazar or Market of his own, and on all Turbins, Cloth, Rice, Gee, Masal, etc., he levies a tax. Secondly, he sets up an Arracks' godown in the camp. And thirdly will sell Butchers meat, which cost his master not anything, to the sepoys; He gets himself so much into his Master's confidence that what the Debash proposes or says is agreed to, in short the Master is ~~mere~~ thought but a secondary man in ^{now} the camp, and by the time the Detachment reaches the Rajah's Fort, it is considered between Master and Debash that the Rajahs are such great Rascals that they must be treated extremely severe. The Detachment then marches up to the Gates, bayonets fixed, swords drawn, etc. The wall of the Fort is lined with people and all seems in great confusion and amasement; the Rajah sends Vackiel to know ^{ka} the reason of this; Detachment marching up to the Fort Gates, the answer is made by immediate demand of the Company's revenue; the Vackiel begs the Officer to retreat to the usual ground of encampment, and his Detachment being without refreshment, he is obliged to consent, and before he is allowed to visit the Rajah, it will take him often a week; during which time the Officer is treating with the Vackiel, the Debash being (5) the interpreter. At length the time is come that this gentleman is to visit the Rajah, the chosen hour is just at dusk that the conversation may not be long, the Officer is received with the greatest ceremony attended by his Debash, the subject started is on the Company's business and a demand made of all the arrears of revenue. The Rajah's answer is, that as soon as its collected, it shall be paid, and presents the Officer with a pair of shawls, promises him a horse, etc. and the Debash with a Kylatt, or ^{ka} suit of linnen consisting of 5 pieces. The Rajah then pretends to be sleepy and his gaping is a signal to the Debash for to get his Master away; a few questions are now asked with respect to provision ^{for} of sepoys, grain at a cheap rate, and grass, straw etc. for the cattle. These articles are promised. A salam is given by the Raja, and there the first visit ends. The Rajah's Vackiel and Debash commence a great friendship for each other, and the real

power and influence of his Master with the Chief and Council of Masulipatnam. The Rajah's Vackiel is soon made acquainted with, who faithfully tells everything which passes to his Rajah, the expense of this Detachment can't cost the Rajah less than 500 Pagodas per month in Batta alone, but twice this trifle he had rather pay than discharge any considerable part of his debt to the Hon'ble Company. Therefore, altho' the Rajah is vexed that this Detachment should be sent to him, he submits to the importunities of the Officer and expense of the people as long as he can pacify them. But money not being sent to the Presidency, alarms the Council, the Officer is threatened to be relieved if he is not more alert, etc. These letters alarm him and he attacks the Rajah again by placing sepoys at the Gates of his Fort and telling him a stronger Detachment will soon arrive, etc. The Raja after he has lengthened the time as much as he possibly can, at last agrees if the Officer will march his Detachment out of his District he will pay the Company 20,000 Madras Pagodas, half in ready money and the remainder, by a teep at 15 days sight on a Saucar; the Debash advises his Master to consent, because (6) he is feed for so doing; the Officer not knowing how to act, complies; and the Detachment is withdrawn after being of very little service. The Officer on taking leave of the Rajah is usually presented with 250 Pagodas, and the petty black Officers and Debash will take all they can get; the teep and money is escorted to Masulipatnam, the former is given only for the sake of delay, as the soucar generally is a person belonging to the Rajah, who has not any money but what he receives from the Rajah to pay his teep with. After the abovementioned methods are tried, the Company's servants often entrust the Collection of Revenue to a Tanadar, Vackiel, Debash or Bramin; the Artifice, Villany and Industry of these men to procure riches for themselves, it is impossible to explain; they may be stiled the Jews of the East. They are much more in the interest of the Rajah than they are friends to the Company, who employ them, and as soon as they are out of sight of the English, think nothing of standing slandering the characters of Councillors, etc.

It is well known that the Eastern Policy of great men, is always to be in debt, which they will never discharge until obliged. These Bramins, or Collectors, when employed on the Revenue business will use their interest and influence to prevail on the Rajahs to discharge some of their bonds to individuals (whose families have been ruined by lending money to them) because when they are prosperous in getting any of these bonds, or Note of hand paid, they usually receive of both principal and interest, full a half to themselves. These men, during the time of their Collectorship, will all turn merchants, dealing in long cloth,

muslin, grain, gagery, gee, etc. without paying any customs or tax whatever. They sue the Rajah for a marrassea, jaggeire, or the rent of villages on their own terms for themselves and relations, which in a number of instances the Rajah is (entirely against his own inclination) obliged to grant, because these Collectors frighten him with revenge, etc. Much more may be said with truth of the above description (7) of people, but its only necessary to add, that the most injurious of all ranks of men to the Northern Circars are Madras Debashes, who never ought to be employed in any country business whatever, but should always be confined to the Presidency of Fort St. George.

The Account of Batta (referred to) allowed by Rajahs to Collectors & Detachments.

		Pags.
To Tannedars	per day	5-0-0
Tasseeldars	- do -	3-0-0
Debashes	- do -	2-0-0
Vackiels	- do -	1-0-0
Harcarrs	- do -	0-2-0
Peons & Chaubdars	- do -	0-1-0
Subadars	- do -	0-1-0
Jemmedars	- do -	0-0-6
Haveldars	- do -	0-0-3
Nageres	- do -	0-0-3
Sepoys	- do -	0-0-2
Drummers	- do -	0-0-2
Fifers	- do -	0-0-2
Serjeants	- do -	0-1-0

N. B. The Officer Commanding may receive Batta in proportion, presents & money, but the consequence of which is, the Company's Revenue cannot be collected with expedition and honour to his character.

XIII. 10

Accounts of Nellore DistrictTotal Receipts M Pag. 81,664Cash paid to zemindars, viz. daily charities as
per account Pag. 471*(a) Sibbendy 7,746-7-4/16(b) Paid Sadarward Charges**For entertaining
strangers. .. 12-9-3/16Clothes and dresses
given to inhabitants . . 334-0-8/16Paper, Baetlenn,
oil for Cutcherry .. 266-6-12/16

Batta to Sibbendy .. 17-10-12/16

Enams .. 4-7-4/16

Charities .. 10-3-9/16

For giving water 73-14-0
to travellers .. ~~23-3-2/16~~Funeral charges of)
poor people, dying) .. 23-1-0
without heir)

1,249-10-5/16

(c) Loss arising on the price of grain*** 280-7-12/16

(d) Loss of dead bullocks, etc.**** 90

370-7-12/16Total disbursements on account
of the district Pages. 9,366-9-5/16

Disbursements on account of Company 7,2,185-9-15/16

On account of District 9,366-9-5/16

India Office Records:P/316/49: Nellore Book: Accounts: 2-12-1781 to 21-4-1782
: No. 101 in Book

(Auditors Remarks)

*Report of Serishtadar: The charge for allowances to Womindars being Pagodas 471-7-5/16 is proper, vouchers being produced for it.

**The Sadarward charges amount to Pagodas 1,249-10-5/16. At the rate fixed by the Governor @ 250 Pag. per month they ought to be only 1,166-10. The charge therefore is 82-0-5/16. *low*
If the particulars are examined, a greater reduction may be made. For instance he has charged 834-8/16 for clothes given in presents to Ryots; altho' the Jummabundy was not settled in Sittaram's times when these presents are usually made. Besides Sittaram has given no credit for the Muzzurs received from the Ryots when these clothes were given in return to them and therefore this charge should not be allowed.

***The loss arising in the measure of price of grain is charged at Pagodas 230-7-12/16. Sittaram says he has a ~~signed~~ declaration signed by the Paymaster to that effect.

****The charge for dead bullocks amounting to 80 Pagodas should not be allowed as it is unprecedented.

Signed) Bogwantrow
Serishtadar

(A True Copy) David Haliburton

XIII. 11

No. 135: From Lord Macartney to Venkat Row,
Renter of Nellore: 8.9.1783:

4000 pagodas will be allowed to you for the necessary repairs of the tanks, which are to be commenced without delay, as the rainy season is approaching. And I desire that an account of the daily expense of the above repairs be delivered to the Sheristadar.

I have no objection to your performing the ceremony of the Jugg provided it be done at your own expenses and without levying any contribution on the ryots for the occasion.

I desire that 1/8 of a Pagoda percent, may be collected, from the inhabitants of Nellore and Serapully agreeably to the ancient custom and their own written agreement towards defraying the expenses of the charities etc. at the Parmaul Bishen Pagoda of Conjeevaram.

No. 204: From Venkat Row to Lord Macartney:
9.12.1783:

.....With respect to the Sadder Wared the cause is this. I sometime ago represented to your Excellency that their charges would amount to 250 Pagodas per month. Your Excellency was pleased on this to reduce those charges to 200 Pagodas and insisted it in that manner in a list of charges sent to me. I have out of this made the necessary expenses, such as entertainment of people of rank who came here and also presents of cloth etc. to the ryots and Shagward Pesh viz. the minal servants of your Excellency. The accounts of some of these charges are with the Sheristadar, and some he has not. If these charges are assessed on the ryots, they positively refuse to pay it, and say they never have done it before. The same Sheristadar has also charged me with many articles which by custom ought to be allowed me by the circar. But he has done this act of spite.....

India Office Records: P/316/50:
Extracts.

No. 203:
To

Vencat Row,
Renter of Nellore.

I have received your letter of the 22nd September with the enclosed receipts.

A Bramin named Vencata Rama Deechee Poodias represented that the pagoda of Mullecarjoona Saway and Coomachamma in the village of Jonnavada has long enjoyed an annuity of three gold fanams from each village and two from each small one in the district of Nellore for the celebration of festivals, which are now stopt in such villages as are rented by Musselman, I direct that you enquire into this affair, and compel the Musselman Renters to pay the usual annuity for the benefit of the pagoda, in question.

What can I say more
(signed) Macartney

Fort St. George
7th October, 1734

No. 214: Lord Macartney to Vencat Row,
Renter of Nellore: 16.10.1734:

....An inhabitant of Godoor by name Condapully Seenevas Row, has complained that some time since you reduced his share of cultivation from 6 in 10 (which has been granted to him by Malick Aslam Cawn) to 5 in 10 and that the person who now rents the village under you has reduced it to 3 in 10. I direct that you enquire into this complaint and allow Condapully Seenevas Row, such a share of cultivation as he can prove himself to be justly entitled to.

India Office Records: P/316/51: Nos. 203,
214, 228 and 255.

No. 228: Venkat Row to Lord Macartney:
23.10.1784:

I have several times represented to your Excellency that after ~~what~~ ^{what I had met} I had sent with from the false accusation made against me my credit had suffered very much, and could only be ~~re~~ ^{re}ceived by a mark of your Excellency's favour and granting me a Khelat of confirmation which I hope your Excellency will honour me with.

No. 258: Lord Macartney to Venkat Row:
9.12.1784:

The punctuality you have observed in the performance of your engagements with the Company has afforded me such satisfaction, in consideration whereof I now send you a Khelat of confirmation as a mark of the Company's favour and an encouragement to you to ~~press~~ persevere in the faithful performance of your duty.

No. 227: From Venkat Row, Renter of Nellore
to Governor: 19.10.1734:

....Jogday Pundit an ~~ami~~ amil appointed by Meer Kummahud din Cawn, over the districts of Podla and Marla and some villages in Carugurry sent some sepoy and horsemen to four or five villages in the Purgunah of Cundcoor to levy 50 pagodas from the ryots and on their refusal they seized and took away some of the principal ryots which has alarmed the others and all collections are at a stop. The villages of Carugurry join to those of Cundcoor, but to this day nothing of this kind ever happened. I hope your Excellency will take what measures appear proper to you to get back these ryots who are confined by the amil of Conugurry.

Some ryots in a village called Mangmoor having convicted a woman of witchcraft punished her, as is customary by taking out her teeth and informed me of it. I sent for the parties but in the meantime this woman went and complained to the Commanding Officer who sent sepoy (to) the village and confined one or two of the ryots and the rest are greatly alarmed. Upon enquiry I found that the woman had really been guilty of withcraft and had received the usual punishment from the people of her own cast. The management of this district is left to me, but if the Commanding Officer sends sepoy in this manner into the district, upon any complaint made to him the affairs of the district must be interrupted, and suffer considerably by such interference. I therefore request you will give order to Capt. Grant not to do so in future or interfere in any shape in the affairs of the country.

India Office Records: P/316/51:
Nos. 227, 235, 238 and 247.

No. 235: From Captain C. Grant to Lord Macartney: 30th October, 1784:

Some days since a woman of a village in the district complained to me that two men had cut off her finger and knocked out two of her teeth. As I was directed by the orders of Government of the 2nd instant to take up all murderers and robbers, and as I conceive this behaviour was highly improper and if permitted with impunity might be productive of bad consequences, I sent for the two men, lodged them in the guard and have since confessed the fact, alledging ^(who) that the woman was a witch. I therefore request your Lordship's orders respecting the punishment of them.

Vencat Row yesterday sent to request I would send the men to him which I have refused, as I conceive he wishes by that means to prevent any complaints being made to me of the abuses committed in the district which he appears to be exceedingly jealous of.

No. 238: From Lord Macartney to Capt. Cornelius Grant, Commander at Nellore: 11.11.1784:

I have received your letter of the 30th ultimo on the subject of two men whom you have confined for maiming a woman. I understand that under the administration of His Highness the Nabob it was always customary for the ryots to try and punish particular offenders of their own cast by themselves, without the interposition of his authority, and though such punishments are in many cases, and particularly that of supposed witchcraft unreasonable for us to interfere with a strong hand to prevent them. The two you have confined having already suffered a punishment perhaps more than adequate to the offence, if it be considered as any offence at all, which I believe it is not according to the prejudices of the natives, I desire they may be released.

No. 247: From Capt. Grant to Lord Macartney: 22.11.1784:

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter of the 11th November and have accordingly released the two men who I had confined for maiming a woman.

And absurd to the highest degree, it would not be advisable

XIII. 12

In conformity of the 52nd paragraph of the act of the 24 of His present Majesty lately received which directs that every person (being a British born subject) who is or shall be appointed or authorised to collect, manage, control or receive the rents, duties or revenues of and belonging and (p.563) due and payable to the Hon'ble Company shall take and subscribe an oath therein recited, the said oath is now administered by the President to Anthony Sadler Esq., Chief of Masulipatam, to Mr. John Huddleston, Resident at Tanjore, and to Messrs Charles Oakley, David Haliburton, and George Mawbray, Members of the Committee of Assigned Revenues. They then subscribe the oath and the papers so subscribed are ordered to be lodged in the Mayor's Court as the Act directs.

Resolved that letters be written to the subordinacies directing the chiefs to take the oath and to administer it to the members of their respective councils and to their secretaries forwarding hither the oath so taken.....

India Office Records: P/274/33:
Consultations 21.2.1785.

XIII.13

The President delivers in the following Minute:

The late (Act) of Parliament having by a restrictive oath, excluded revenue collectors from receiving anything more than the Company's allowances it is become the particular duty of all persons employed in this branch to consider how the restriction of Parliament may operate most effectually to the advantage of the Public.

The occasion of Mr. Sadliers departure for Masulipatam as chief of that settlement naturally called our attention to the subject and in our letter to him of the 23th ultimo we gave him such directions as seemed immediately necessary at that moment, and a further consideration of it will in my humble opinion warrant the following proposition, which I beg leave to lay before the Board viz.

That the chief and Councils of the Northern settlements be directed to turn their thoughts particularly to the (p.636) improvement of the revenue, by every means that may appear consistent with the provisions of the Legislature, without laying any unreasonable burthens upon the zemindars and renters. To consider whether the restrictions of the act may not enable the Company to derive an increase of public revenue without any fresh burthen upon the people, and to affect such increase if practicable in whatever manner, or form may seem to them most proper.

India Office Records: P/274/33: Consultations: 5.3.1785: Minute of Lord Macartney.

The Jumabundy is settled for this year to the 25th September next, upon the footing of the last; we are already in possession of the Committee of Circuits Report upon the Vizagapatnam district, and we may expect considerable lights from their investigation in those of Masulipatan, so that a well granted opinion may be formed of the additional tribute that ought to be levied for the next year.

I am especially led to this proposition by reflecting, that as it will (p.637) probably appear expedient to the Company to make some further provision for the Chief and Councils, in consequence of their present inadequate allowances, such provision, if established must depend in a great measure upon the benefits to accrue from the increase of the revenue, since it will be impossible for the Company to bear additional burthens, without obtaining additional funds to discharge them.

I must here likewise observe, that as the Secretary to the council has by the restrictive oath he has taken, debarred himself of the fees which have been usually received upon all cowles, or leases to renters, it is but just that a compensation should be made by the Company adequate to the loss he will sustain by this restriction, and with the view of enabling the Company to perform this, without any charge upon their present funds; I could propose that a list be made out of the fees which it has (p.637) been customary to collect upon cowles, that the Secretary be allowed whatever he has a claim to on this account by way of salary from the Company, and that the several renters etc. be required to pay to the Company in addition to their rents, the amount of such fees as would otherwise have been received by the Secretary.

Macartney

Ordered that the above Minute of the President be sent in circulation to the Members of Council for their further consideration.

XIII.14

The Minute of the President read and entered in last consultations having been sent in circulation to the several members of the Board, the Secretary is called upon for an account of his rates of fees as Cowles and for their average value since he has been in office, he accordingly delivers in the following.

On every cowle wherein the annual rent is under 1000 Pagodas the Secretary's establishment fee is 10 Pagodas per annum. *led*

Under 2000 from 1000	20 Pagodas per annum
Under 3000 from 2000	30 Pagodas per annum
Under 4000 from 3000	40 Pagodas per annum
4000 and upwards	50 Pagodas per annum

Upon an average calculation of the fees due to the secretary from the 1st January, 1781 to 1st January, 1785 at the above (p.679) rate the annual amount will be found to be about 2800 Pagodas and his fees for the Anchorage duty of vessels to about 350 Pagodas per annum. The fees per cowles for the whole term of the cowle have been always collected when the cowle was issued.

(signed) Chas Freeman
Secretary

The Board concurring with the President in the opinion contained in the close of the Minute entered in last consultation it is agreed that the fees after the rates contained in the above list upon all cowles that may be issued after the 25th ultimo when the Secretary took the oath of Revenue be collected from the Renters when the cowles are delivered to them that those fees be paid by them to the Company in addition to their stated rents. And that in lieu of this prerequisite which has hitherto appertained to the office of Secretary together with the Anchorage fees, a salary of 250 Pagodas per month be paid (p.680) to him by the Company.

Ordered also that a copy of the other parts of the President's Minute be transmitted to the several subordinates.

India Office Records: P/274/34:
Consultations: Dated 8.3.1785.

XIII. 15

Capt. Read to Board of Revenue:

(n.423).....The custom of this country is to give whoever will build a tank, a chauth or fourth part, and to the mender of one that has been long out of repair, or requires considerable labor, one eighth of the ground it waters, as Enaum to him and his heirs in perpetuity.

Please to advise me, if the necessary repairs of Nullas watering these districts, may be made, taking Mr. Macleod's precautions to prevent abuses, and if Enaums of ground may be granted for the building or repairs of tanks, in the proportions above mentioned.

Board of Revenue to Capt. Read:
(n.433-35; dated 6.7.1792):

On the subject of Tacavy we remark that advances on that account, are in general limited to 5%, on the estimated produce, but in consideration of circumstances you state, and the indulgence necessary to be shewn to the inhabitants of a newly acquired country, we leave to your discretion the extent of the encouragement to be granted them under that head, whether in money or grain.

You mention that Mr. Macleod has advanced money to repair a very extensive Nullah cut from the Cavery, to water the numeral districts, and that the expense attending it is to be advanced from the produce. We doubt not the work will be very beneficial to the country, but we wish to know if this deduction is from the gross produce, or from the circar share; in what manner, and within what period you expect the Company will be indemnified for the expenses of the (n.434) undertaking.

In all cases of this nature, the expediency of the measure, the expense attending it, the means and probable period of reimbursement, with every other particular

India Office Records: P/316/92: Customs and procedure in building and repairing of tanks:

connected with the subject, should be stated to us in their first instance. A reference, with our sentiments would then be made to Government, who alone can authorise the carrying it into effect.

The custom you state to have prevailed of granting Enaum lands to persons, building or repairing tanks, at their own expense, we consider as liable to many objections, and when it is found necessary to incur such expense, we are of opinion it should be sustained by Government, and as the country derives a proportional benefit, some additional assessment may be fairly made on the inhabitants to reimburse the amount. We desire you will prepare and lay before us a statement shewing the repairs etc. at present required, the estimated expense, and the probable period, when the amount, if advanced by the Company will be repaid by any accommodation you may be able to settle with the inhabitants, or otherwise.

XIII. 16

Read the following letter from (10414) Government
noticed in Consultn. 12th December.

To

Edward Saunders, Esq.,
President and Members of the
Board of Revenue.

Gentlemen,

I am directed to enclose for your
information and guidance Extract from the
Minutes of Consultation upon your proceedings
on the report of the Collector of the Jagheer dated
27th March last and upon your letters of the 17th,
18th and 25th of July and 5th ultimo, regarding
the secession of inhabitants from the Jagheer.

I have the honour to be

Gentlemen

Your most obedient servant

(Signed) J. Webbe
Secry

Fort St. George
3rd December 1796

India Office Records: Madras Board of Revenue Proceeding

XIII.17

Sent the following letter to the
Collector in the Jaghire--

To

Mr. Lionel Place,
Collector in the Jaghire

Sir,

We transmit for your information and guidance copy of our proceedings on your letter of the 27th March and its enclosures and of the Minute of (10571) Government (Marked A) under date the 2nd December.

In consequence of the orders of Government on our remarks* upon the 12th para of your letter of the 27th March you will observe it is necessary that you lay before us a list of all the items or Heads of Collection, classed by you under the Head of "Ready Money Collections".

You will fully report your opinion on the practicability of carrying into execution the plans suggested by us in our remarks** on your 14th para to prevent the extension of Maniams and to combine the interests of the Circar and Maniamdar.

On our remarks*** on the 28th para of your address, Government have resolved that the assessment on Topes shall be no higher than at the highest rate, the land they occupy would produce if cultivated with the grain to which it is adapted (except where an excise on Toddy is established) and that all Topes attached and appropriated to Charities and Choultries be (10572) exempt from tax.

We direct that any Topes, not of the two latter descriptions, but which have not hitherto been taxed, be not assessed, even on the principle

India Office Records: Madras Board of Revenue
Proceedings: P/ 4 Dated 11 Dec 1796

* See Board's Minute, 30th June, paras 3rd and 4th.

** See Board's Minute, 30th June, paras 7 to 15.

*** See Board's Minute, 30th June, paras 42 to 46.

here laid down until reported to and approved by us. We further desire that with a view to encourage the planting of useful trees that you lay before us a draft of a cowle to be granted to all persons who may wish to occupy land for that purpose, to be held free of tax for the first 5 years after the trees are planted, and from thence forward at the rate proposed, which is to be expressed and declared unalterable.

We also transmit for your information and particular guidance the orders of Government of the 2nd December (marked B) upon our correspondence respecting the Carangooly Secession. You will observe that the proclamation and orders noted in your diary of August, inviting the inhabitants of the Carnatic to desert their districts and to reside in the Jaghire (10573) to be recalled and ^{have} suppressed agreeable to the orders of Government, but this will not prevent your affording encouragement to such inhabitants to settle therein, as voluntarily resort to the districts under your management.

We enclose a second proclamation which you will have translated and published inviting the Carangooly inhabitants to return and we trust that you will omit nothing to assist its wished for operation. In such case their accounts with the Circar must be adjusted so soon after their return as possible and you will report its progressive effect.

You will thereby perceive that Government are particularly anxious to receive the explanations required by our orders on your report of the 6th October '95 in regard to the standard of division by which you were guided in making the resumptions from the shares of the inhabitants, showing the (10574) alterations you have introduced throughout the whole process of division. You will therefore transmit ample and complete explanations on that subject with the least possible delay; and you will observe, Government in their orders upon our remarks* on the 15th para of your letter of the 27th March have stated that they do not think

* Board's Minute, 30th June, paras 16 and 30

themselves authorised to take a retrospect in establishing a principle of division between the Circar and Ryot share of the crop, beyond the period when the Jaghire came into the possession of the Company.

Government have also resolved that no person holding the preference of meerassydar shall be deprived of it by the Collector, until the causes of forfeiture may have been fully stated by him and pronounced upon by us. You will therefore deliver to every meerassydar against whom you have cause of complaint the charges against him requiring his written (10575) answer thereto, and forward the whole with your remarks for our determination; this you will consider the standing rule for your guidance in such cases.

In villages where there is more land than the present meerassydars can cultivate, you will require of each meerassydar in writing the extent of ground he is willing to enter into engagements with the Circar to cultivate, previously informing them that it is the intention of Government to bestow the surplus or spare ground they cannot cultivate on new meerassydars, and you will submit as these also with your remarks for our orders.

In regard to the appointment of Meerassydars to such spare lands, or to villages where none exists, Government have resolved that it shall rest entirely with the Collector himself; you will therefore lay before us a monthly report of the names of all persons (10576) you may so appoint, the extent of the meerassydz conferred, and in what village, and you will, as before directed, submit to us a draft of the sunned you propose should be given to the new meerassydars.

We are,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servants
(Signed) Edward Saunders
and Members

Fort St. George
23rd December 1796

XIII . 18

Sent the following letter to Government.

To

The Right Hon'ble Lord Hobart,
Governor in Council

My Lord,

We have now the honour of laying before your Lordship copy of a letter from Mr. Place under date the 7th instant (515) reporting the effect of the monsoon upon the tanks in the Jaghire previous to submitting this letter to your Lordship. We thought it expedient to call upon Mr. Place for an estimate of the sums required to accomplish the several objects of repair and improvement, he therein proposed, and for your Lordship's more complete information on this subject, our Accountant has furnished a statement of the several expenditures on the tanks and water courses of the Jaghire from the 1st May 1795 to 30th November 1796 which with Mr. Place reply of the 19th instant we have the honour to submit.

Your Lordship will thereby preceive that the sum of Pagodas 18,473 has been expended on the madranticam tanks and the collected estimates Pagodas 5,000 may yet be required to complete the work. The ~~information~~ ^{importance} of it is evident for ^{importance} without the improvement suggested, what has already been done may soon be ~~caused~~ ^{become} useless; but as it ^{become} seems more than ever necessary (516) that a survey by a scientific person should be made to ascertain whether what is now proposed be likely to prove the most effectual means of perfecting the Colliergula. We beg leave again to repeat the suggestion contained in our address of the 27th February last that the proposed work shall be surveyed by a professional man previous to the execution of it.

The Collector further states that about 1000 Pagodas will be required to remedy a defect in the channel leading to Chembrumbul tank and an equal ~~seem~~ ^{sum} to repair the damage done to that ^{sum} of Outramalore, which we recommend to your Lordship's sanction; the repair to Calicolum recommended in his

India Office Records: Madras Board of Revenue Proceedings
Jan 23, 1797

letter of the 7th the Collector upon further enquiry and for the reason stated in his address of the 19th instant does not seem to think eligible. We shall in consequence of this report recommend it to him to be more particular in his survey before proposing future repair of this kind. (517)

We recommended that the collector be permitted to charge the small presents made to the workmen which he estimates about Pagodas 200 and when the account of all the repairs are completed, we shall call upon him to lay before us a comparative statement showing the differences between the sanctioned estimates, and the actual disbursements as well as to explain the causes of any increase in the expenditure.

John Storey having requested a lease for the ground, your Lordship was pleased to grant him for 30 years previous to his commencing his intended Butchery, We recommend one may be given to him at the annual quit rent of $\frac{1}{2}$ ~~frag~~ *Pagoda* per Cawny as fixed by your Lordship.

We have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Most Obedient Humble
Servant[△]

(Signed) Edward Saunders
and Members

Fort St. George
23rd January 1797

XIII. 19

Read the following letter from the Accountant.

To

Mr. J. B. Travers
Acting Secretary

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant and (501) now send you the statement required by the Board.

I am,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant

Fort St. George
20th January 1797

(Signed) John Mitford
Accountant

Statement of the Expenditure on the Several tanks and Watercourses in the Jaghire from the 1st May 1795 to 30th November 1796, distinguishing the 1st and 2nd repairs of the Madarantcum Tank

Districts	Repairs of Tanks			Repairs of Watercourses			Total
	Rs.	F.	C.	Rs.	F.	C.	
Caroongooly	307	13-13	35	201	26-17		30924-39-51
Outramalore	209	17-30	05	147	02-74		11064-32-79
Sautmaghans	62	31-12		"	"	"	62-31-12
Poonnamullee	74	10-07	10	4403	38-14		11813-45-24
Saulavauk	36	30-08	65	21	11-12		3651-19-77
Tripassore	87	1-15	32	5	37-30		887-06-62

India Office Records: Madras Board of Revenue Proceedings
23 Jan 1797

Districts	Repairs of Tanks			Repairs of Watercourses			Total		
	Pg.	P.	C	Pg.	P.	C	Pg.	P.	C
Ponnary	732	37	04	16	19	32	749	10	36
Peddapollam	253	10	60	"	"	"	253	10	60
Munnimungleem	47	28	65	4	25	70	52	18	55
Chenglepet	489	10	35	653	12	76	1142	23	31
Conjevaram	371	12	16	361	19	03	732	31	19
Cavanteendalum	330	02	47	189	19	70	519	22	37
Covelong	8	10	05	8	10	05	8	10	05
Trevatore	97	32	60	10	11	40	107	44	20
Batta paid to 200 tank) Diggers for dispatch-) ing them to different) Purgunnahs.)	9	70	00	"	"	"	9	70	00
<hr/>									
Total Pags. 55944-31-41 6014-40-38 61959-25-79									

N. B. Madarantacum Tank is included in the District of Caroongooly it appears the first repairs amounted

To	...	8528-00-00
Second Repair	...	<u>9945-00-00</u>
Total included above..		<u>18473-00-00</u>

Fort St. George

20th January, 1797

(Signed) J. Mitford
Accountant

XIII.20

The Paddy and Janaloo in Devee is now beating out, and measuring as fast as it can possibly be done, and until this business is finished, which may yet require weeks or a month, the Jamabundy with the inhabitants cannot be settled. It is immediately after the measurement, that the Russom (dosities) and other allowances are taken.

There are upwards of 70 of the principal cultivators in the Pergunnah who claim some 11 and some 12 Tooms out of 20 for their share of the produce, instead of the usual proportion of 10 Tooms, a distinction which it is to be wished could be abolished, and that all the Ryotts might enjoy equal privileges. As the Land has however been cultivated this year, under an express promise that every one should have the full share he had been accustomed to receive, it remains only for me to ascertain what the usage has been for several years past (p. 374). The universal custom of allowing Dosaloo or handfuls of grain out of every heap to a Village Bramin, and certain artificers, has in the pergunnah of Devee grown to a very great abuse, by allowing a number of Bramins, many of them neither reside in nor have any connection with the district to receive Dosaloo. Also this abuse I think myself authorised to restrain, by limiting the indulgence in the first instance to people who actually reside in the pergunnah, as I must suppose that these other districts are equally chargeable with the maintenance of their own poor, and afterwards to such as can produce saneds granted by proper authority, or can prove long prescription, and are actually objects of poverty.

The chayroot produced in this district has fallen much below its usual price, or rather bears no price at all,.....

India Office Records: Home Miscellaneous
364: (Extract from the Proceedings of the
Mairas Board of Revenue: 17.4.1788).

Letter from Mr Scott: Gunton?

(XIII. 21)

By Tippoo's Schedule, the revenues of the ceded countries north of the Covery, were estimated to 2,90,000 contrary Pagodas, equal to about 2,40,000 Star Pagodas.

	Gross Collection	Collector	
	after de-	Commi-	Nett
	ducting all	ssion	Revenue
	<u>Native</u>		
	<u>Servants</u>		

By Captain Read's Collection

From the date of the) S. Pag. definitive treaty, to)			
12th July 1792 .)	79,689	8,820	76,407
From the 12th July)			
1792 to the 12th)	<u>4,71,014</u>	22,779	<u>4,55,581</u>
July 1793)			

It is not easy to form an estimate of future increase of revenue, probably it will be 60 or 70,000 more in the course of five years. The nett revenue will then be about 5,20,000 Star Pagodas - which will be considerably more than double Tippoo's estimate.

Dindigul, Pylery and Verapatchy were estimated by Tippoo at 90,000 Contrary Pagodas. I do not know the amount of our collections, but understand they ought to be a lack of Pagodas; even allowing them to be only 80,000 the countries ceded to the Company on our side of the Peninsula, may be valued at six lacks of Star Pagodas, nett revenue.

Scottish Record Office: GD 51/3/499/6 (Folio 533 recto)
Extract

XIII. 22

2. Government have desired that the question both of the amount and of the proportions of the reduction may be more materially weighed. The information I have had an opportunity of obtaining since May last (31st) induces me to think that a smaller sum than what I then stated will be sufficient to answer every purpose but I would regulate the amount of this sum differently according as the term fixed upon for introducing the final settlement may be earlier or later.....

3. Many circumstances have occurred within these few months to induce me to judge more favourably than I formerly did of the condition of the inhabitants of Canara. But none has so much attracted my attention as their numberless disputes about landed property..... We may be sure that wherever lands are so much the object of contention that there is no danger of their being unable to discharge the public rent - for men would hardly lose their time and spend their money for the sake of acquiring that which was not worth the holding or which might involve them in loss. Were all estates in Canara worth disputing for I should not think that any absolute necessity existed for reducing any part of the assessment.....

4. It is scarcely possible to ascertain the produce or value of land from the owners or cultivators. Long experience has taught them that concealment is their best defence against new exactions, and all of them however simple in other respects are continually on their guard against any questions that tend to lead to any disclosure of their circumstances. A careful survey would however yield in a great deal of useful information which cannot be drawn from them.....

India Office Records: Madras Board of Revenue Proceedings: P/286/47: Thomas Munro to the Board of Revenue: Dated 9.11.1800; Proceedings 11th December, 1800: pp 283- (Extract)

5. I have endeavoured by every means in my power to ascertain from such circumstances as have come within my observation what are the relative proportions of the produce after deducting all expenses of cultivation that go to the Sirkar and to the landlord. The evidence of the tenants, were it not most commonly ~~take~~ would at *h/ false* once determine the point because all rents of tenants to landlords in Canara are paid either in money or a certain fixed quantity of grain, and never by a share of the crop or what is called Warrum. In taking the reports of the landlords themselves the lowest that any of them have reckoned their average share of the net produce to a district or mogams is 15% and the highest 40%. Though I imagine that even the highest of the extremes is too low. But yet the admission of either of them on their part is more than could have been expected for it proves incontrovertibly the existence of a land rent. The reply of the farmers of the Baramahal to similar queries was always that there was no rent or seldom any profit or anything beyond the mere wages of the labour. In both cases they represent their situation as much worse than it really is. According to their own statements however there is a wide difference between the condition of the farmer of the Baramahal and that of the landholder of Canara.

6.

7. Anything like equality of assessment or of produce can hardly be supposed to exist throughout so extensive a tract of country. The clear rent is in many instances as low as 15% and in many as high as 80% of the net produce.

Minute of the Board (10335)

The Board are happy to observe from Major Munro's further report that there is strong reason to believe the assessment on the country much easier than was at first supposed. Agreed however to defer the consideration of the report until furnished with additional information from the present collector and for the survey of Barkoor. In the meantime they record a corrected comparative statement that entered in *Consultations of* 28th August having been taken from Maj. Munro's statement before the errors now pointed out were discovered.

..... and to the inhabitants since by these means, the produce of 1211, under such peculiar disadvantages exceeded by 9,000 Garce the settlement with the Puttuckdars in 1209.

In fusli 1211, Mr. Harris had not effected his new division of the country into compact Taluks, and the repairs executed immediately before the descent of the waters were too recent and had not time to consolidate; the Sircar servants, also, had straggling villages to superintend and the mischief was too powerful to allow time and effect to their exertions. In the present order of the district boundaries, and strength of every work in the country, there is reason to expect security in future from so great a loss.

In corroboration of the foregoing is hereunder inserted an abstract statement* of the total Nunja and Punja cultivation and produce and of the Sircar and inhabitants share of fusli 1211 (2942) compared with those of fusli 1210, showing the cultivation of the former which was preserved from the inundation, and the produce thereof.

It is with the Board, as well as with the Governor in Council, an object of constant solicitude, that in the realisation of the right of Government, the welfare and prosperity of the inhabitants be carefully studied and therefore with high satisfaction, the Board advert to the proof afforded by the foregoing abstract, of the accomplishment of this object, by the very able and considerate management (2943) of the collector of Tanjore, under the Mahratta administration, if the singularly unpropitious season of 1211, would have impaired the revenue of

India Office Records: Madras Board of Revenue Proceedings
Dated 24th March 1803

* Statement on separate sheet.

Government, it would have been fatal to the share of the Ryot in a far greater degree, had they prosecuted the cultivation at all after the best part had been partially or totally swept away. They had most probably been required by the Dubbers regulations to pay in an excessive proportion of the residue, which their industry had saved, or to make good a produce not in existence. It is demonstrated in the preceding abstract that the repairs made to the rivers and channels in fusli 1211 and the increase of their warum counteracted the injuries of the season, that their lands had a real produce and that their share of it nearly equalled what it was in fusli 1210.

Some inhabitants however notwithstanding every labour and expense in their (2944) power lost their whole crops to these. The Collector proposes a remission of the tackavi according to an account hereafter to be sent in.

On a review of the several elaborate and satisfactory reports of the Collector on the cultivation of fusli 1211, the Board are fully convinced that the cultivation was preserved from the inundation with all the care that could be exerted, that the gross ^{produce} tho' diminished, was small only in proportion to that of fusli 1210, a more productive year than any on record, and that the inhabitants instead of being overwhelmed by misfortune, were protected from calamity by liberal tackavi and Marramut, by a division of the actual produce, and by an augmented Warum.

The Collector however states that he considers a farther relaxation of the Sircar demand to be necessary for the prosperity of the province and that he has accordingly formed.....

STATEMENT

XIII. 22

	Cultivation		Produce		Mailwaurum		Coodewaurum	
	1210	1211	1210	1211	1210	1211	1210	1211
	Reay M	Reay M	Garce M	Garce M	Garce M	Garce M	Garce M	Garce M
Cuddapahcar	26,184-9	21,669-8	29,878-288	22,551-273	16,746-232	11,650-155	12,452-301	10,224-310
Sumba Peshanum	72,998-11	71,885-14	67,878-112	55,917-269	38,263-154	28,857-300	27,474-132	25,332-285
Chittera Car	5,263-10	5,947-11	1,153-23	1,191-74	582-187	555-359	541-46	599-324
	104,444-17	99,562-12	98,908-24	79,660-217	55,592-173	41,064-15	40,468-79	36,207-120

Statement of page 2942: Madras Board of Revenue Proceedings dated 24th March 1803. In all the figures of area and quantity, given above, the last denominations have been omitted.

59

XIII. 24

Agraharums
and
Shrotrums

The Agraharums and Shrotrums have been settled on the same principle as in fusli 1211. The quit rent from the former was at first settled at $\frac{1}{2}$ upon all the lands held under this title, whether cultivated or not, but many of the proprietors not having the means of employing the waste land requested permission to relinquish it and to be indulged with the $\frac{1}{2}$ of the cultivated land which has been allowed to them in the present year, and the quit rent collected on the cultivated land only, - the tenure of many being involved in doubt the Collector has commenced an enquiry respecting them, and proposes to bring any resumptions that may be made to the head of extra revenue. He has omitted the detail in his present report, as it would have occasioned too great a delay in its transmission. (6048)

Enams

Statement C, D & E relate to the several discription of Enams in Coimbatore. Convinced that great abuses existed with respect to this alienations the Collector went into a particular investigation of them the result of which laid open all the information required and determined him to resume them to the amount entered in the following statement

Statement.....

India Office Records: Madras Board of Revenue Proceeding: P/287/33 dated 13th June 1803, pp.6047-6048. Coimbatore

	Total Value of the alienations			Amount Resumed			Quit Rent			Total amount available to Government			Amounts allowed to the Enamdars		
	P	F	C	P	F	C	P	F	C	P	F	C	P	F	C
Deva) Dayam) Deonta) Vuligam)	9296-07-58			4396-13-20			1594-07-28			5990-20-48			3305-29-10		
Brahraa Dayam	8024-28-35			2105-05-62			1214-39-00			3320-02-62			4704-25-53		
Grama Vulegam	1418-26-35			828-36-71			94-21-53			923-16-44			495-09-71		
Fakis & Cazis	1380-23-22			46-32-18			00-00-00			46-32-18			1333-33-04		
Total	20120-01-70			7377-04-11			2903-26-01			10280-30-12			9839-13-58		

On the amount of the resumptions above noticed a quit rent was paid in the last year of Star Pagodas 1806-1-44 which ceasing with the resumption has caused an apparent decrease of that sum in the present Jummahbundy.....

XIII. 25

To

The Secretary to Government in the
Judicial Department, Fort St. George.

Sir,

1. I am sorry to inform the government that since Mr. Latham's departure and the charge of this district devolving ~~some~~ ^{Law} money disorders and robberies are reported to have taken place therein occasioned by the very high price of corn and the extreme dearth of the year.

6. I feel it my duty while I apply for this sanction to state that these disorders appear to be entirely owing to the necessities of the poorer classes occasioned by the scarcity and dearness of corn which is progressively becoming dearer, while the great dearth and want of water leave little hope of a speedy alteration for the better. The robberies said to be committed appear to be for the purpose of grain or cattle. Multitudes of the peasantry are quitting their homes and emigrating to other districts for the sake of food. If supplies could be sent of the most common grain, either on the (p.344) public or private account it might much relieve the distresses which large families unable to emigrate, and are still liable to suffer, prevent the loss to the state of a great portion of its peasantry, whom emigration does not always preserve, and the high price would without doubt repay the trouble and charges of the private trader.

7. The Ramnad market price yesterday was $2\frac{7}{8}$ measures of paddy per one Shooby fanam and $1\frac{15}{16}$ measures of rice for the same. The Ramnad measure being if correct equal to $\frac{4}{5}$ Madras measure or $6\frac{2}{5}$ Ollieks at the exchange of 1 Madras fanam $50\frac{10}{23}$ cash per Shooby fanam make the ^{price} of paddy about Star Pagodas 50-18-35.

The Avarice of individuals insensible to the distresses of their fellow creatures, if they themselves but thereby deserve profit may indeed, as is usually (p.346) the case, be only the more and more on the alert to

India Office Records: Madras Judicial Consultations: P/322/9; Letter from the Acting Magistrate Ramnad dated 17.2.1806 (pp.340-46) & pp.346-52): Extract: Government Resolution (pp.352-53) and Government reply on pp.378-80; Further correspondence is entered on consultations of 11th July, 1806: pp.2135-40; which is a letter of 2nd July.

increase the general distress under the hopes of profiting by the occasion but I shall endeavour my utmost to prevent these bad practices of the richer class, as well as the disorders of the poor.

I have the honour *de*

Rob Neunham
Acting Magistrate

Ramnad
17th February, 1806

Government Decision

Resolved to acquaint the Register and Acting Judge of the Zillah of Ramnad, that the Board approve of his having employed an hundred peons at the rates of pay mentioned by him for the purpose of apprehending the plunderers described in his letter. Resolved to authorise him to employ as many peons as may be immediately necessary to put a stop to the depredation which have been commenced in the Zillah of Ramnad; (p.353) and to desire him to call upon the Bari and zemindars in the Zillah to contribute by every means in their power, towards the suppression of the disorders according to the terms of their sunnuds and cabuliats.

Resolved further to authorise him to offer such rewards as he may judge proper for the discovery of the offenders.

The Board deem it expedient to authorise the Board of Revenue to take such steps as they may think proper for relieving the scarcity, which is felt in the Zillah of Ramnad, but the Board are of opinion that this subject will be more effectually attained by being left to the ordinary operation of commercial intercourse.

XIII. 26

Public Department

To the Honorable the Court of Directors
for affairs of the Hon'ble the United
Company of Merchants of England trading
to the East Indies.

Hon'ble Sirs,

Paras 77 @ 95

1. We stated to your Hon'ble Court in our General Despatch from this Department of the 6th March, 1807, the measures which we had adopted for encouraging the importation of Grain at this Presidency; and we informed you that we had appointed a Committee for the purpose of exercising a general superintendence over the Grain Market during the present period of scarcity.
2. We deem it unnecessary to detail the particular objects which engaged the attention of the Committee after their appointment. The material object was the adoption of an arrangement to provide for the security of such Grain as might be disposed of to the Company under the terms of the Guarantee price which it had been judged advisable to establish; and the Committee in that view decided on the plan of dividing the Grain in certain portions among the respective Members, who would hold themselves responsible for the quantity in their custody.
3. The Committee in a letter which was addressed to us under date the 14th April last, reported this arrangement; and they at the same time submitted for our determination whether it would be continued; or whether it might not be more satisfactory that the detailed management of the Grain should be vested in a person to be specially appointed for that duty. (b)
4. In a Minute which Lord William Bentinck recorded on that occasion, His Lordship highly approved the zeal and (activity) which had been manifested by the Members of the Grain Committee. (His) Lordship however stated that it had not been intended

India Office Records: Letters from
Fort St. George: 33/E/4/335

that they should be burthened with the responsibility of receiving under their individual (one) the Grain brought to this place for general consumption; but that they should be considered a Board of Superintendence and Control. From the quan(tity) of rice which had been received into the public stores, His Lordship (con)sidered it of consequence that the Committee should be relieved of personal responsibility and that the whole should be placed under the custody of one person, subject to the general authority of the Committee.

5. Lord William Bentinck described the particular qualifications which the officer of custody would require, and as a prop(ri) excitement to the exertion of his activity and zeal, His Lordship proposed that a commission of three per cent should be allowed on the sales of all Grain from the public stores, to be divided in the proportion of 3/5 to the Principal Officer of Custody and of 2/5 to the Assistant who was also recommended to be appointed, it being understood that the proposed commission should defray all charges incidental to the management of the Grain, with the exception of wastage and godown hire.

6. Lord William Bentinck recommended that Mr. Robert Sherson should be placed in-charge of the Grain; and that Mr. William Cooke should be appointed his Assistant, and to act as Secretary of the Grain Committee.

7. These measures having received the concurrence of Mr. Petrie were accordingly carried into effect. As however they appeared to Mr. Oakes to be liable to very forcible objections, a Minute was recorded by Mr. Oakes under date the 4th instant, in which he has explained the reasons that induced him to dissent from the Resolutions which had been adopted.

8. Mr. Oakes considered the system of management which had been adopted by the Grain Committee to have been in all respects

satisfactory; and as it had been prosecuted with great zeal by the several Members; he anticipated very beneficial effects from the competition which was likely to arise among the Native Servants, entrusted with the immediate care of Grain, in checking all improper charges. Mr. Oakes stated that the Gentlemen composing the Committee, being of high rank in the service, and having handsome salaries and sufficient leisure, they neither expected nor wished that the additional trouble which they had undertaken should entail any expense upon the Government.

9. Mr. Oakes proceeded to a review of the circumstances which had led to the suggestion contained in the letter of the Grain Committee, regarding a modification of the system which had been adopted for the care of the Grain, and the inferences drawn from that view having tended to establish the belief that the Committee had been induced to submit the proposal under the impression that it would be acceptable to Lord William Bentinck, for purposes of personal favor, while the expence which was likely to be incurred was deemed by Mr. Oakes inordinate, and unnecessary, he expressed himself on the subject in terms of particular disapprobation. (h)

10. Lord William Bentinck, in a Minute which he recorded in reply to that of Mr. Oakes, strongly disclaimed the motives with which he had been charged; and considering the assertion which had been advanced to be utterly unfounded, His Lordship deemed it necessary, in the first instance, to know with whom the mis(s)tatement had originated, and accordingly proposed a further enquiry for that purpose.

11. A farther explanatory Minute having been recorded by Mr. Oakes, it was decided that an examination should take place of the Members of the Grain Committee in regard to their motives in proposing to the Government a modification in the management of the Grain; and in consequence of this decision the attendance of the Members of the Grain Committee was required at Council on the 8th instant.

12. The examination of each Gentleman of the Committee having been separately recorded, we shall only request your reference to the papers for a particular account of the impression which appears to have existed in the minds of the Members of the Committee, in the proceedings which had occurred without dwelling on the motives which induced the Committee (to) propose a modification of the system which they had adopted, we shall observe that the result of the examination relieved Lord William Bentinck from the imported desire to influence the opinions and proceedings of the Committee, as on that point the testimony of the Members of the Committee was decided.

13. Since that examination different minutes have been recorded by Lord William Bentinck; by Mr. Petrie and by Mr. Oakes on the question under discussion; and as the subject had led to observations of more than ordinary asperity, we deem it proper to lose no time in submitting the whole of the papers to your particular attention.

14. The Minutes of Lord William Bentinck and of Mr. Petrie have continued to defend the measure of placing the Grain under the management of Mr. Sherson and of his Assistant Mr. Cooke, as essential to the due preservation of that valuable property, and as an arrangement of advantage and economy to the Company - while the Minute of Mr. Oakes have continued to draw conclusions of an entirely opposite nature.

15. The nature of the discussion renders us particularly reluctant to enter into further detail in this despatch; and we are willing to hope that the papers, of which we have transmitted copies, will place you in ample possession of our respective opinions on the question, and leave no difficulty in deciding on its merits.

We have the honor to be
with great respect
Hon'ble Sirs,

Yours faithful
humble servants

Fort St.)
George)
19th May)
1807)

William Bentinck
Crabok ?
William Petrie
Oakes

XIII. 27

Read the following letter from
Government (7285)

Letter from Government to the Board
of Revenue

To

Edward Saunders, Esq.
President and Members of the
Board of Revenue,

Gentlemen,

We herewith transmit for your information
copy of Memorandum regarding the existing
practice of pressing Coolies in the Northern
Circars, and desire to require your opinion
upon the Regulations therein suggested.

We are, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient servants,

Hobart
E. Saunders
E. W. Fallowfield

Fort St. George
23 September 1795

India Office Records: Madras Board of Revenue
Proceedings: P/285/17 (17 September to 12 October
1795): Memorandum on Coolies

XIII. 28

Memorial regarding the practice of
pressing Coolies on the Northern Circars.

The inhabitants of the Northern Circars particularly the lower, tho' not least useful castes of them, labour under some grievances, and hardships in common with their more Southern neighbours; others are peculiar to these provinces and appear to be the baneful remains of the usages which obtained during the mogul government, perhaps the worst existing, if an inference is drawn from the situation of the neighbouring provinces, belonging to the Nizam, once fertile, and flourishing now desolated. Such was a practice which has wisely and justly been abolished by Government, of Batta being levied upon villages, whenever it became necessary to detach sepoys, for the collection of the (7287) revenue, or any other purpose.* Such is the practice which still prevails of pressing the lower castes of the inhabitants, on all occasions, and dragging them, often from the plough, and sickle, to carry burthens, for which they frequently receive no kind of compensation, and when they do it is always arbitrary, and often inadequate to their trouble. Hence collection is much impeded. But ^{hence} this is not all. Frequently, when prest, they are kept under close confinement, for four and twenty hours, or longer, till they are wanted, and it often happens, that during this time, no provision at all is made for their subsistence, and in this starved condition, are they drove forth under guards to carry loads.

When Detachments of sepoys march thro' the country, under the command of native commissioned or non commissioned (7288) officers, it is a fact that the coolies they press and employ to carry their baggage, etc. never receive any the smallest compensation for their trouble. The sepoys frequently force the inhabitants to carry themselves with their arms, etc. on the slightest cause of indisposition, nay often without any cause. Even lascars act in a similar manner, upon the strength

India Office Records: Madras Board of Revenue Proceedings
1st October 1795.

* Seebendy Sepoys will levy this Batta

of a red, or a yellow jacket. When Detachments are marched under the charge of European officers, sometimes prest coolies are paid, and sometimes they are not. Similar treatment occurs when officers are travelling in consequence of removals, etc. as ~~well~~ as when other gentlemen pass thro' ^{well} the country. This statement is not meant to neg reflect on any body of men, or individually for ~~any~~ many gentlemen see the coolies they employ paid their just hire. But it has (7289) erroneously been conceived by some, that according to the custom of the country, the villages are obliged to furnish coolies to people of every description who pass, without payment upon the supposition that the hire of such coolies is charged by the villages to the Circar or deducted from their rents, whereas no such charge is ever made, or admitted of. It is no uncommon thing, on the approach of a Detachment, or of travellers, to see the people of a village immediately run off from the fear of being prest to carry Burthens and conceal themselves till such Detachment; or travellers have past, so if they have the good fortune to escape being prest, they at any rate lose the time they ~~to~~ conceal themselves.

It is presumed that this gr^eivance requires only to be made known to Government in order to have redress applied (7290) and the present is conceived to be the best time to lay the matter before Lord Hobart during his tour, that he may have an opportunity of observing and enquiring whether or not the foregoing statement is just and true.

The following sketch of Regulations or orders with a view of removing or at least of alleviating the grievance above stated is humbly submitted to his Lordship's superior judgement.-

1. That the rates of cooley hire from station to station, shall be ascertained at all the principal stations in the Circars, by the Collectors Commanding Officers, and Cutwalls of these stations; where there is no Collector by the Commanding Officer and Cutwalls of these stations, where there is no Collector by the Commanding (7291) Officer and Cutwall; the same to be published in all

Orderly Books and registered in the Collectors Cutcherees, and Cutwalls Choultries for the information, and guidance of all travellers and a report made thereof to Government.

2. All officers and others previous to their march, are to hire coolies for carrying their baggage at the place & from whence they set out, to the station to which they intend to go, or to some intermediate station, at which coolies may probably be hired, paying according to the rates fixed at the station they come from. If coolies are not readily to be procured to hire they are to apply to the Cutwall or in case of failure or delay on his part, to the Commanding Officer. If it is required these coolies are to have half their hire in advance and the Cutwall must be made responsible in case of their running away on the road. (7292)

3. As officers and others may happen to be distressed on the road for want of carriage, in consequence of coolies running away, in this case they are to apply to the Amildar, Cutwall or other headman of the village where they want to be supplied with coolies. If they are not to be got to hire to the next station, they are to be paid while employed at the rate of a Star Pagoda and a half per month (the usual cooley hire in time of peace) or two and a half Madras fanams per day. And as Madras fanams are not in circulation to the northward of Ongole, they are to receive an adequate amount in dubs, agreeable to the rate of exchange for instance, if a rupee reckoned at 12 Madras fanams ranges for 72 dubs, or 13 fanams at 4 dubs to a fanam, a cooley is to receive 15 dubs per day in lieu of 2½ Madras fanams. (7293)

4. That upon an officer being furnished as above with coolies, he is to have his name, rank and number of his Corps, with the Headman of the village, who in case of any complaint being made by the coolies as furnished on their return is to represent the same to the Collector of the District in order that if he cannot adjust the matter, it may be reported to Government. Other Gentlemen on similar cases to leave their names and address.

5. That on the march of Detachments, Commanding Officers are to endeavour to procure coolies to hire as before directed. But in case of emergency, and when it becomes necessary to press coolies, Commanding Officers are to be held responsible that they are paid at the rate above specified, that their pay is to commence the day they are furnished and that they are to be relieved at the next stage, or as soon as others can be procured. (7294)

6. Officers in Command of native Corps are to issue the strictest orders that no Detachments of their Corps or sepoys marching thro' the country are on any account whatever to press or employ coolies, without paying them at the rate above specified, and they are to inflict an exemplary punishment on such as are found guilty of disobedience of these orders. Officers in command of European Corps, to issue orders to the same effect.

7. In the event of sepoys or others being taken sick on the march and obliged to be carried on by coolies, such coolies are to be paid by the Paymaster of the Station at the rate above specified on a bill certified by the Officer Commanding the Detachment or the Officer Commanding the station.

8. All coolies required for Detachments on the public Departments of the Paymaster Commissary, etc. to be furnished, (7295) and paid in the manner above stated.

9. That altho' these orders are intended chiefly with a view to the northern Circars, they are to be considered as general, and to be carried into effect thro' the whole of the Hon'ble Company's possessions on the Coast where similar practices in regard to the pressing of coolies prevail.

These orders to be sent thro' the proper channel to all Collectors, and to be by them promulgated in their respective districts.

A True Copy

(Signed) Dan Jnce

Minute thereon

On the foregoing the Board observe that altho' instructions were given from time to time to those in the charge of the districts for using every endeavour to guard.....

XIII.29

Read the following letter from the
Acting Collector in the 3rd Division of the
Vizagapatam District.

To

Edward Saunders, Etc.
President and Members of the
Board of Revenue,
Fort St. George

Gentlemen,

In compliance with your directions under
date the 22nd January, I have now the honour to
transmitting to you (drawn up according to the
specimens (3330) therein enclosed) the rates and
distances of Cooly hire, Pallankeen boys, bullock
and cart hire to the different stations within
the boundaries of the Havaily. The rates of hire
are here set down at the customary amount, which
has obtained in these parts for a great length
of time and is from the best information I could
possibly procure fully adequate to the labour.

I have the honour to be with respect,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant

(Signed) J. Warricker
Acting Collector

Chicacole
22nd March 1796

India Office Records: Madras Board of Revenue Proceedings:
4th April 1796.

XIII.30

Minute of the Board of Revenue

(7295) On the foregoing, the Board observe that although the instructions were given from time to time to those in charge of the districts for using every endeavour to (7296) guard the inhabitants against oppression, yet they are sensible that the Chiefs and Councils from want of local information and other circumstances made no effectual exertion to remove various grievances, but as the late change of system in the Circars had in view the removal of past irregularities and adverting to the directions contained in the Proclamation and general instructions in November last as well to the general orders of the Government in the Military department sent to the Collectors in December following the Board have been led to expect that the utmost exertions would be made to correct defects and to render abuses as little prevalent as possible.

Ordered that copies of the foregoing Memorandum be sent to the Collectors in the Circars and that they be desired to report thereon with the least possible (7297) delay suggesting any alterations or additions as may from their local knowledge appear best calculated to effect the object of them.

India Office Records: Madras Board of Revenue
Proceedings: P/285:17

XIII.31

To

The Right Hon'ble Lord Hobart
Governor-in-Council
Fort St. George

My Lord,

I have had the honour to receive Mr. Deputy Secretary Wilk's letter of the 4th instant and agreeably to your commands transmit accompanying an account of the different articles (p.3898) upon which duties are collected at the Land Custom House. The duties are exacted from all description of persons upon goods coming into the Port or Black Town overland. No duties are collected by me upon articles exported.

It is necessary to observe that the percentage which the native merchants have voluntarily appropriated for nearly half a century to the use of the several churches upon all articles of merchandise of overland import and export are for the accommodation of the church wardens collected at the Land Custom House by the church wardens themselves or persons delegated by them for that purpose. But as I have no interference in this duty and consequently never enter the amount of these donations in my accounts I have not thought it necessary to take any notice of them in the statement herewith transmitted. I have the honour to be with great respect.

My Lord
Your Lordship's most obedient
humble servant

George Parry
Land Customer

Land Custom House
Fort St. George
11th October, 1795

India Office Records: Madras Revenue
Consultations:

No. 15: Received the following letter from
Mr. G. Parry

To

E. Saunders
President and Members of the Board
of Revenue

Gentleman,

In obedience to your orders contained
in Mr. Secretary Hamilton's letter of the
20th ultimo, I have the honour to lay before
you a statement of my collections in the
last official year, including fees of every
denomination under the respective heads,
and the rates at which collected.

I have the honour to be
Gentleman your most obedient
humble servant
George Parry
Land Customer

Fort St. George
1st January, 1795.

India Office Records: Madras Board
of Revenue Proceedings: P/285/24: Miscellany Book Jan-June
1795
Extract 3 pages (between Nos 15-16)

To

Mr. G. Parry
Land Customer

Sir,

I am directed by the Board to desire you will lay before them a statement shewing the names of the pagodas, charities and fees payable from the collections under the denomination of "Fees to the different churches and other charitable institutions" the authorities and dates thereof, by which such collection is made; the rules, and rates of assessment, and also explaining the mode of collection and under what Regulations the distribution is made.

I am your most obedient servant
William Brown
Secretary

Fort St. George
30th April, 1795

India Office Records: Madras Board of
Revenue Proceedings: P/
(n.3420)

Read the following letter from the Land Customer.
To Edward Safford Esq. President and Members of the
Board of Revenue.....

Gentlemen

I have duly received your Secretary's letters of the 30th ultimo and 2nd instant. On the subject of these letters it is necessary I should premise (p.3892) that it never has been considered any part of the Land customer's duty to interfere in any respect in the collection or distribution of the fees to the different churches and other charitable institutions and that I am consequently unable from my own immediate knowledge to furnish the information required. The above circumstance I have heretofore pointed out to the Rt. Hon. the President-in-Council in a letter bearing date 11th October 1794 of which letter as being connected with the subject in agitation I take the liberty to transmit accompanying No.1 a copy. But desirous of laying before you every information which my situation enables me to collect I have to acquaint you that the fees on account of the different churches etc. were for upwards of 20 years collected at the Land custom house by one Veerah Pillah a respectable man and an old servant in the office who took upon himself the duty (which p.3893 is not I understand productive of the smallest emolument of any kind to the person so employed) at the general solicitation of the Church Wardens. It was I understand customary for Veerah Pillah to adjust the accounts of fees with the conicopelies of the different Pagodas etc. and to pay them the amount monthly and these conicoplies after passing a receipt to Veerah Pillah paid the respective monthly amount collections to the Church Wardens of these several Pagodas. In the month of October 1793 Veerah Pillah then a servant in the office and employed in the adjustment of the church fees died and Soobramanyah Pillah my head conicoply in the office at the request of the church Wardens undertook the management of the business which has I am informed since that period been conducted according to mode pursued by Veerah Pillah. These accounts were never considered as forming any part of the records of the land customers (p.3894) Department and the accounts of Veerah Pillah are not of course to be found in the office. I have already observed that the Land Customer has no interference in this business and think it further necessary to remark that the circumstances stated in the Memo annexed to the amount submitted with my letter to your Board of the 1st January last render it almost impossible that any part of this duty could be conducted under his directions. Soobramanyah Pillah at my desire has furnished me with a particular account of the different Pagodas etc. and circars on account of which donations are collected

India Office Records: Madras Board of Revenue Proceedings:
P/285/11: Dated May 1795

under his superintendance and has informed me that the different Deeds of Donation therein specified are deposited in trust with him. This amount is herewith transmitted marked No.2. Soobramanyah Pillah at my desire has also furnished me with particular statement No.3 of the collections of Fees on account of the town Pagoda since the period (p.3895) of his undertaking the superintendance of this business to the date of his last adjustment with Chinmaje. He informs me that these fees have for many years been paid to the same church warden Chica Pillah who could consequently furnish the amount required in your Secretary's letter of the 2nd instant. But not being acquainted with the motives which may have induced you to call for this account I did not think it advisable to hold any communication on the subject with Chocah Pillah without your previous sanction.

In reply.....

Port St. George
7-5-1795

Signed G. Parry

XIV .32

Read the following letter from
the sea customers:

To

Edward Saunders Esq.,
President and Members of the Board
of Revenue.

Gentlemen,

I have received your Secretary's
letter of the 2nd instant, desiring me to
lay before you a "statement of Fees which
have been collected annually on account
of the Town Pagoda for the last ten years."

Since I have had charge of this
office, no fees of this description have
been collected by me, or any of the servants
of the employ, nor has any ever been
collected by my predecessors, as (p.4227)
I am informed by the oldest Conicoply in
the office. I understand the fee is a
mere charitable voluntary donation from
the merchants of the Gentoo and Malabar
cast, and received by a conicoply appointed
by the Monegar or church warden of the
Town Pagoda.

I have.....

(signed) James Call
Sea Customer

Fort St. George
7th May, 1795

From Mr. C. Baker
(p.4236) From the Manager for the
supplies of Beetle & Tobacco. Reporting
that Pagoda 625-3-30 have been paid by the
Beetle Gardeners on account of the Town
Pagoda since the management, and that he
has levied Pagodas 341-23 of the fines
ordered by the Board.

India Office Records: P/285/12:
Proceedings of the Madras Board of
Revenue: Dated 21.5.1795.

XIII.33

To

Mr. George Parry
Land Customer

Sir,

The Board desire me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 7th instant, with its enclosures. The fees collected for the different Pagodas at the Land Custom Office, from the native merchants, is termed by you a voluntary contribution and it would appear from the statement No. 2 delivered by you that it cannot justly be considered in any other light. But as the Board must necessarily look to you for information on all points relative to collections made at the Land Custom House under every denomination whatever, or which may regard the conduct of those employed under you in that Department in demanding, enforcing or rendering an account of the payment thereof, I have their directions to inform you that they expect the fullest information in your power to afford on the (p.4077) subject and they desire you will obtain from the conicopy and lay before them the original agreements said to have been given by a certain number of merchants to pay the fees in question, at the same time reporting whether they are usually demanded on the goods of all native merchants indiscriminately; if not, what are the exceptions and whether in case of the refusal to answer such demand the goods of the individual are detained to enforce compliance.

You will be pleased also to obtain from Chocah Pillah and lay before the Board the information required to complete the statement of fees collected on account of the Town Pagoda for ten years, as called for under date the 2nd instant.

I am directed to inform you in reply to the latter part of your letter, that the charge for Lamp oil was admitted of and meant to be included in the permission granted and signified to (p.4078) you in the Acting Secretary's letter of the 3rd March to which you refer.

I am Sir your obedient
servant
William Brown
Secretary

Port St. George
15th May, 1795

India Office Records: Madras Board of
Revenue Proceedings: P/ /

XIII.34

Read the following letter from the Land Customer:

To

Edward Saunders Esq.
President and Members of the
Board of Revenue.

Gentlemen,

Immediately on receipt of your Secretary's letter of the 15th instant I called upon Choacah Pillah for the statement of collections made at the Land Custom House (p.4669) on account of the Town Pagoda from the 1st March, 1785 to the 16th September, 1792. Choacah Pillah has been in the country and thereby prevented sending this account at an earlier period. I have now the honour to lay the original before you. No. 1 and No. 2 is an abstract of fees collected on the above account in 10 years viz. from the 1st March, 1785 to the 28th February, 1795. I have in consequence of your orders made enquiry respecting the casts of the natives from whom the fees on account of the Pagodas are collected and find they are paid by all persons excepting Europeans, Portugese, Armenians and Malabar Christians. The people of the left hand cast in general pay fee on account of the Pagodas of both the left and right hand casts excepting the people of the Acharawauk cast who do not pay any fees to the Cachaleeswern and Conlahsawmy pagodas. The people of the right hand cast pay fees on account of all the different pagodas mentioned in the list accompanying (p.4670) my letter of the 7th May excepting the Pagodas of Cachaleeswern and Conlahsawmy, which are of the left hand cast. I now send you agreeably to your orders the original donation deeds in favor of the following Pagodas etc.

India Office Records: P/285/12: Proceedings
of the Madras Board of Revenue.

Yagambra Esvern, Cachalla Esveren,
Chintadrapettah, Calettypettah Vuridarajah
Swamy, Streeperambadoor Basheegarah Swamy,
Theroo Cacheyoor, Gollen choultry.

One Ponnappah chitty I understand
some time since obtained the deed in favour
of the Coniah Swamy Pagoda from the church
warden Comarapah Chitty and refuses to return
it. In regard to the deeds of Donation in
favour of the Triplicane God, Partasaradie
and the Charities made under the directions
of Veerapermal, in his Jagheer Streehurry
Coller, my conicopilly Soobramaneyah Pillah
(p.4671) informs me he has already acquainted
you when called before your Board, that
the former is deposited with Tamboo Naick
the church warden at present at Tanjore
and the latter with Mr. John De Fries as
joint executor with Avadanum Paupiah and
Aveneguddalah Vencalachileiyer to the estate
of Cooperaul Cashevayer. The original deeds
in favour of Mannatal or the Dancing girls
attached to the Pagodas etc. is scarcely
legible from the ravages of time. A copy
of it as near as it can be traced is now
transmitted. I can only answer to the
remaining point of information required in
your Secretary's letter of the 15th instant that
I have only known one instance of a necessity
existing for detaining goods as security
for the payment of the church fees. This
was in the month of March last when the
disputes were raging between the Right and
Left hand casts. My conicopilly acquainted
(p.4672) me that Ponnappah Chetty (a man of
a notorious turbulent disposition) was
forming parties of people of the Left hand
cast and persuading them to refuse payment
of the church fees. Some of the Party in
consequence did refuse payment of the fees
and knowing the effect that such innovation
would have (and indeed was evidently meant
to produce) at such a time, I desired
Soobramaneyah in consequence not to allow
the goods in question to pass until the fees
had been paid according to former custom.
This Ponnappah Chitty has been for many
years a principal instigator of the very
dangerous disputes that have happened between
the two casts, and was one of the people put
under confinement in the main guard for his
conduct in the affray that happened in
March last. At the same time that I acquainted
Ponnappa Chitty and his party with my
determination not at that time to admit
of any deviation from established (p.4673)

custom in the payment of the church fees I informed them that I had no sort of interest in the business and that if they felt in the smallest degree aggrieved at my conduct in the instance in question or were desirous of withdrawing their donations altogether, they might refer the point to your Board; and added that it would be very satisfactory to me individually if they could obtain your order for putting the collection of the church fees upon such a footing as would free myself and the servants in the Land Custom House from the trouble attached to it. This conversation I conceive must have given rise to the petition addressed to your Board sometime since respecting my conicoply Soobramaneya Pillah who has managed the business of collecting the church fees since the death of Veerah Pilly. I have now given you all the information in my power upon the points contained (p.4674) in your Secretary's letter of the 15th instant and although I do not consider myself at all responsible for the collection or mode of distributing the church fees I must add my hope that some mode may be substituted for the future collection of the church fees (if such collection fall to be hereafter made under your sanction) that may relieve myself and the head conicoply Soobramaneyah Pillah from the trouble and vexation which parties made upon the same principle as that exerted in the instance in question by Ponnappah Chitty must necessarily produce.

I have the honour to be gentlemen
Your most obedient humble servant
George Parry
Land Customer

Fort St. George
31st May, 1795.

Decision of Board

(4676) Ordered that the Deeds received with the foregoing letter be examined preparatory to taking subject into full consideration.

XIII. 35

Sent the following letter to the Land Customer:

To

Mr. G. Parry,
Land Customer.

Sir,

The Board desire you will furnish without delay a list of native servants necessary for the conduct (p. 2168) of your employ, and of the wages you are of opinion should be allotted to each, upon a supposition that all fees and gratuities of whatever description, are to be abolished.

You will at the same time transmit a statement shewing the amount hitherto received by them, respectively under their different heads.

I am your most obedient
servant
S. R. Lushington
Acting Secretary

Fort St. George
2nd March, 1796.

India Office Records: Madras Board of
Revenue Proceedings: P/285/30.

XIII.36

Read again the following letter ^{h from} the land customer noticed in Consultation. (2853)

To

Edgard Saunders, Esq.,
President and Members of the
Board of Revenue

Gentlemen,

Agreeably to your directions contained in your acting Secretary's letter of the 2nd instant, I have now the honour to lay before you three statements, under ^{below} A, B & C. The first being ^{list} a list of the native servants ~~ex~~ employed at the Land Custom House in the pay of the Company, specifying the monthly pay drawn by each. The second a list of the same servants specifying as well their pay drawn from the Company, as their averaged receipts in donations from the Merchants and the third a list of native servants required in the Land Custom House, with the wages which they should receive upon a supposition, that all fees and gratuities, of whatever description are to be abolished. The Rate at which the (2854) the Head Conicoplys fees are levied is particularly specified in the Memorandum annexed to the enclosure of my letter dated 1st January 1795, to which I beg permission to refer you and the exact amount of these fees has been regularly inserted in my Monthly Accounts. Out of these fees, the Head Conicoply has been obliged to make occasional additions to the pay of servants in the office, whose receipts from the Company have not been found sufficient for their maintenance, as also to disburse a certain proportion in donations to the Pagodas. These fees being proposed to be abolished, I cannot but consider the Head Conicoply entitled to the pay of 20 Pagodas per month, particularly as my servant Soobramoneyah Pillah is a man of exceeding good character, and has always conducted himself much to my satisfaction. I am assured that the amounts (2855) of donations from the merchants to the different servants specified in the statement B is fairly averaged, there is no fixed rate for any servants but the Head Conicoply nor is any sum

India Office Records: Madras Public Consultations: 21.3.1796

levied, as a right, by any other servants, whose receipts are precarious, depending on the will of the merchants, whose donations, as I have stated them, are considered perfectly voluntary. The payments of these donations to the native servants has been customary since the establishment of the office, such custom originating, I conceive in an idea of acknowledgement for the assistance rendered by the servants individually in the collections and management of the charitable donations for the support of the Pagodas, etc.

The Interpreter Shunmogaroy has drawn the pay inserted in the different (2856) statements, of Pagodas, 28, Since the death of his relation, Davenaegum, who drew the same allowance for a very long period. The office being actually sincoure the pay must, I conceive, have been granted, originally as a reward for some essential service rendered to the Company.

While in the subject of charitable donations for the support of the different Pagodas, I beg leave to submit to your consideration here, for I am ^{how} considered responsible for the original deeds, transmitted to you with my letter of the 31st May 1795, and whether they should not be returned to me for the purpose of restoring them to the persons with whom they were lodged in trust.

Conceiving it to be your intention to simplify the collection of the land customs, and to abolish fees of every denomination (2857), I think it my duty to bring to your notice the circumstance of my own emolument arising solely from fees, which are collected agreeably to the rates specified in the Memorandum, annexed to the statement, accompanying my letter of the 1st January 1795. I hope, Gentlemen, I shall not be thought to trespass on the limits of my duty in suggesting a mode of indemnifying the Company for the deduction which would arise from the receipts of revenue were my own salary to be discharged from the collection of Customs. My suggestion is the levying an addition of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on the different articles now paying 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent

advalorem. I enclose (marked D) a list of these articles. I have made a calculate of the value of the goods of this description entered at the Custom House in twelve months, which may be averaged at one lack and fifty thousand Pagodas. The (2858) additional $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent would make annually 750 Pagodas, or monthly 62 $\frac{1}{2}$ Pagodas, which sum might, I trust, be considered a fair salary for the Land Customer. The additional $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, when fees of every discription whatsoever are abolished, cannot, I assure you, impose any additional tax on the merchants, and should it appear to you that the simplifying the demand of customs will be productive of great convenience to the merchants, and tend to increase the inland trade, I hope my suggestion may appear not unworthy of your attention.

I take this opportunity of representing that since the month of September last, when my stock of stationery was totally exhausted, I have been under the necessity of purchasing such quantity of that article as I found requisit (2859) for current consumption. My disbursements have amounted, on average, to about 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ Pagodas monthly, during this period; and I have to request authority for inserting the charge in my accounts. My indents of stationery was forwarded to you on the 10th March 1795 for the then succeeding year, and in reply to frequent references I have privately made on the subject have been informed that it has, with other indents, from the Revenue Departments, been laid before the Right Hon'ble the President in Council and that no decision has yet passed upon them.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble servant

(Signed) George Parry
Land, Customs

Fort St. Geroge
14th March 1796

XIII.37

To

The Right Hon'ble Lord Hobart,
Governor in Council

My Lord,

Several representations having been delivered to us, signed by a number of native merchants complaining that their goods were detained by the head conicoply at the Land Customers Office because they had declined the payment of certain fees and having requested that their goods might be ordered to be passed on paying the Company's established duties with the fees to the Land Customer, we called upon Mr. Parry to report on the subject for our information. Upon receipt of his reports as well as upon reference to the proceedings in this Department, it appeared that the fees in question had at different periods been agreed to by some of the merchants as voluntary donations to particular individuals or particular churches, arising we apprehend from motives of collusion with the native servants and at other times from the influence of the principal Dubashes (3098) employed by men in power who found means to gain the consent of a few of the merchants to confer fees on particular Pagodas. But the originally considered to be voluntary as already observed, it appears that at length the payment of them was insisted upon generally from all merchants whatever Europeans and Musselmen excepted, and in case of refusal their goods were detained.

Adverting to the orders of the Hon'ble Court of Directors on the subject and particularly to those under date 28th August 1788 wherein they authorise the total repeal of the band duties at the Presidency in case it should appear that any beneficial consequences were likely to result to the commerce of the settlement, to the ease of the native manufacturers or to the ~~great~~ prosperity of the interior country, we judged it necessary to obtain from the Land Customer a statement of

India Office Records: Madras Board of Revenue Proceedings
~~Madras Public Consultations: March 1796~~

his collections for the preceding year, in order that we might ascertain (3099) what had been the increase or decrease of this branch of revenue and whether it would not be consistent with the liberal sentiments of the Court of Directors to recommend its entire abolition.

It appears by information furnished to this Board in 1792 that upon an average of 7 years the annual receipts into the Company's treasury had amounted to about Pagodas 8600, but it would appear by the statement delivered by Mr. Parry that altho the collection from the merchants were Pagodas 11,043-17-4, the fees and charities therein included amounted to Pagodas 3,590-14-15, the charges collections to Pagodas 867-16 and the payment into the revenue treasury from the 1st May 1792 to the 30th April 1794 only to Pagodas 6,586-10-9 and for 1794/5 to no more than Pagodas 5,312-2-51. Instead therefore of a progressive increase as was expected, there has been a decrease and under all circumstances we beg leave to offer it as our opinion that it is not an object to be put in competition with the relief which would be (3100) afforded by an abolition of the duties, particularly by the extirpation of those abuses which no vigilance can prevent in their collections. These have been hitherto aggravated by the mode of compensating the native servants in the departments the greater part of whose allowances have been derived as appears from the accompanying statements from fees upon the merchants; These are represented by Mr. Parry to be donations to his servants for assistance rendered by them individually in the collections and management of the charities for the support of the Pagodas, etc. and said to be perfectly voluntary on the part of the merchants; but however free might have been the origin of this usage, it is now grown into a demand and a refusal to comply with it, subjects the merchants to vexatious delay. Whatever therefore your Lordship may think fit to determine in respect to the continuance of the Land Customs, this mode of compensating (3101) the servants in the department should, we recommend, be abolished. The additional salary to the servants which will in such case be required will amount to 600 Pagodas annually which with a moderate allowance

to the Land Customer (whose whole emoluments at present arise from fees) calculated at 600 Pagodas must be deducted from the present collections which would reduce the net revenue below Pagodas 5000 unless it should be resolved to levy an additional assessment on the merchants for their payment, as suggested by the Land Customer.

We have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your most obedient humble servants

(Signed) E. Saunders
and Members.

Fort St. George
25th March 1796.

XIII. 38

Upon a full consideration of the subject of the land customs, we have resolved to continue the same public duties as have heretofore been levied. That is to say five per cent upon the valuable, and 2½ per cent upon the inferior description of goods, but we have abolished all fees, voluntary or involuntary, of whatsoever description, which we think will admit of a considerable reduction in the number of servants employed at present in the collection of these customs. We desire therefore you will submit to our consideration ~~of~~ list~~s~~ of the servants, which ^{ha} may in your opinion be necessary for the employ with such salaries annexed to their names as you may judge adequate to the duties to be required of them.

It is our intention to provide a suitable compensation for the land customer to be paid out of his collections, and in consideration of the loss which the churches will sustain by the abolition of fees, we direct that (3581) that half of the amount, which may be collected upon the valuable sort of goods at five percent be distributed by the Land Customer after having first submitted the ground of such distribution to your Board among those churches, for which the fees have hitherto been collected.

We desire that the abolitions of these fees may be published by the authority of your Board, and that the Land Customer's servants be apprized of our resolution to punish in the most exemplary manner any breach of our orders.

India Office Records: Madras Board of Revenue Proceedings
Letter from Government to the Board of Revenue: dated
14th April 1796.

XIII. 39

Sent the following letter to the Land Customer.

To

Mr. G. Parry
Land Customer

Sir,

The Right Honourable President in Council having determined to abolish the collection of all fees donations (3619) and gratuities of whatsoever discription, and conceiving that some reduction may in consequence be made in the number of servants at present employed under you, I am directed to desire you will submit to the Board a list of those which may in your opinion be indispensibly necessary for the employ with such salaries annexed to their names as you judge adequate to the duties required of them.

You will attend to the orders of Government contained in the accompanying Extract of their letter regarding the distribution to be made to the Churches upon the amount collected on goods at 5 per cent and you will submit draft of an advertisement to be published for the abolition of the fees as ordered.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant

(Signed) S. R. Lushington
Actg. Secretary

Fort St. George
15th April 1796

India Office Records: Madras Board of Revenue Proceedings

April 1796

XIII. 40

Read the following letter from the
Land Customer. (3926)

To

Edward Saunders, Esq.,
President and Members of the
Board of Revenue

Gentlemen,

Agreeably to your directions contained in your acting Secretary's letter of the 15th instant, I have the honour to lay before you (No. 1) the form of an advertisement to be published on the subject of the abolition of all fees, of whatsoever denomination, at the Land Custom House. I also enclose (No. 2) a memorandum and proposed distribution among the different Pagodas of the amount which Government have resolved to allot to that purpose in consideration of the loss which the churches will sustain by the abolition of fees. As I have drawn up this statement with deliberate attention, I trust it will be found consonant to your ideas and conformable to the wishes of Government. I have turned my attention to the necessity of curtailing, as much as possible, the establishment of (3927) servants for my Department, and am sorry to say that I cannot, with just attention to the execution of my duty, reduce it within the number contained in the accompanying List No. (3). This Establishment comprizes a diminution of eleven Conicopolys, and seven peons from the establishment hitherto allotted and is augmented by one man to conduct the weighing of the goods, and one Waterwoman and sweeper, the former of which servants was formerly paid by fees, by the merchants, and the latter from the emoluments of the Head Conicopoly.

I take this opportunity of pointing out to you the long and faithful services of a Conicopoly named Veerdapillay, who has served in my Department for a period of upwards of forty years. He is now incapacitated by bodily infirmity from

India Office Records: Madras Board of Revenue Proceedings
25 April 1786.

performing any duty, and, as he is not possessed of any property, and has a family to support, I think it my duty to solicit your intercession with Government (3928) in his behalf, in order to his being placed upon the civil pension list. I hope he may be thought worthy of a subsistence of 3 Pagodas monthly. He is very old and not likely to be very long an incumbent on the Company's bounty.

I request your decision on my former request respecting stationery, and my suggestion regarding the original donations deeds transmitted to you with my letter of the 31st May 1795 and have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient Servant

(Signed) George Parry

Fort St. George
23rd April 1796

Notice is hereby given that Government have been pleased, in the most pointed manner, to order the discontinuance of the collection of all fees, donations and gratuities, of whatsoever description, at the Land Custom House, at Madras, and that the sole duty hereafter to be collected is 5 per cent and 2½ per cent ad valorem, according to the description of goods heretofore paying custom at those rates respectively.

Government having appointed a liberal (3929) salary for every servant acting under the Land Customer, notice is hereby given that any native servant in the Department who shall be detected in offending against this resolution of Government by receiving, on any account either directly or indirectly any fee, or gratuity in money, or kind, will be forthwith dismissed from his employment, declared

unworthy of ever again serving the Company in any capacity and be subject to such further punishment as Government may think proper to inflict.

Government having in their minutes of Council under date the 10th April, recorded their intention of allotting to the different churches one half of the amount which may be collected upon the valuable sort of goods paying 5 per cent duty, to be distributed by the land Customer, who is directed to draw out, and submit a plan of the distribution of such amount among those churches for which the fees have hitherto been collected, I have annexed the statement in question, upon which a few remark only appear necessary.

The one half of the amount of customs collected on the 5 per cent goods is equal to 2½ per cent upon the whole value of such goods or ninety cash on every pagoda, contained in such total value. The annexed statement is made from the actual value of the 5 per cent goods passed at the Custom House, In the course of the last month, viz. Pagodas 7,046-20. The rates of distribution to the different Pagodas are made to correspond, as nearly as can be, with the proportion of fees hitherto collected for each Church respectively, and are such, I believe, as will be perfectly satisfactory to the inhabitants.

(Signed) G. Parry

Distribution of Ninety Cash in every Pagoda or 2½ per cent upon the total value of Goods passed at the Land Custom House which are subject to the payment of duty at the rate of 5 per cent ad valorem

<u>Name of the Pagoda</u>	<u>Rate of Distribution</u>	<u>Rate to be distributed to each Pagoda</u>
The value of goods above-mentioned in the month of March being Pagodas 7046-20 the Custom at 2½% or Ninety Cash per Pagoda is Pagodas 176-6-76		
Chenracasava Permaul, the Company's Church	20 cash per Pag.	39-06-40
Pardasaradie or ² Miplicani Pagoda	20 - do-	39-06-40
Sasheagarah Sawmie of Streeperombodore	10 - do-	18-25-60
Vurdapajah Sawmie of Callattypettah	7½ - do-	14-30-51
Yagambarah Esveren of Madras	8 - do-	15-40-53
Condasawmie of Madras	5 - do-	9-35-30
Cachaloh Esveren of Madras	5 - do-	9-35-30
Amurtha Theagaroyer of Threecatcheyoor	5 - do-	9-35-30
Audy Casavah Permaul of Chintratrypettah	5 - do-	11-00-32
Strecharry Cottee in Veerapermaul Jahihe	1½ - do-	2-20-10
Golah Peons Water Pundal at Sydapettah	1½ - do-	2-20-10
Maricattal, a very old woman attached to the Company's Church	1½ - do-	2-20-10
	<hr/> 90 Cash - do-	<hr/> 176-06-76 <hr/>

(Signed) Goerge Parry

(3931)

List of native servants which are considered indispensably necessary for conducting the business of the Land Customer's Department, with the monthly pay that should be allotted to each, under the operation of the system of abolishing fees and gratuities of every description whatsoever:-

1	Head Conicopoly Soobramonoyah Pillah	20 - -
1	English Writer Veerasawmy	15 - -
1	Conicopoly Vencatachelum	4 - -
1	-do- Nilliah Pillah	4 - -
1	-do- Sawmy Pillah	4 - -
1	-do- Employed at the Weaving Looms	2 - -
1	-do- at the Washing places	2 - -
1	-do- to take charge of the goods lodged in Custom House	5 - -
4	-do- employed at the principal Blacktown gates at 2 Pags each	8 - -
8	Peons -do- at 1½ Pags. each	14 - -
4	-do- for chopping the goods at -do-	7 - -
1	-do- employed at Sydapet	1-33-60
1	-do- in the Blacktown	1-33-60
2	-do- at the Washing Places @ 1½ Pags. each	3-22-40
1	Man to attend the weighing of the goods	3-00-00
1	Waterwoman and sweeper	<u>02-22-40</u>
	Total Pagodas	<u>93-22-40</u>

Two ollocks of lamp oil and
13 fanams monthly for markingseeds

(Signed) George Parry

(3932)

Agreed to submit to Government the foregoing letter from Mr. Parry, with form of the advertisement notifying the abolition of fees, also the distribution proposed by him among the Churches, of the amount to be paid from the collections, together with the required establishment of native servants, which it is agreed to recommend be accordingly sanctioned.

In consequence of what is mentioned by Mr. Parry of the long services and present situation of the Conicopoly named Verdapilly, agreed to submit his recommendation for allowing this old man a subsistence of 3 Pagodas monthly to the favourable consideration of Government.

XIII . 41

Government decision

(p.4355) We approve the advertisement proposed to be published upon the abolition of all fees at the Land Custom House, as well as the distribution to the different Pagodas, and the establishment of servants recommended by Mr. Parry. We also concur in your recommendation for putting the Conicoply Virdapilly upon the list of pensioners at 3 Pagodas per month.

Resolution of the Board

(p.4456) Notice is hereby given that Government have been pleased in the most pointed manner to order the discontinuance of the collectbns of all fees, donations and gratuities, of whatsoever description, at the Land Custom House, at Madras, and that the sole duty hereafter to be collected is 5% and 2½% ad valorem, according to the description of goods heretofore paying custom at the rates respectively. But any merchant making oath to the exportation by sea of the same identical goods shall upon presenting such oath be entitled to draw back of half the amount from the (p.4457) Land Customer. The quantity and value of goods upon which the draw back may be demanded to be determined by the sea customer's receipt for the export duty.

Government having appointed a liberal salary for every servant acting under the Land Customer further notice is hereby given that any native servant in the department, who shall be detected in offending against the resolution of Government by receiving on any account, either directly or indirectly, any fee, or gratuity, in money, or kind, will be forthwith dismissed from his employment, declared unworthy of ever again serving the Company in any capacity; and be subject to such further punishment as Government may think proper to inflict.

By Order of the Board of Revenue
(signed) S. R. Lushington
Acting Secretary

Fort St. George
1st May, 1796.

India Office Records: Madras Board
of Revenue Proceedings: P/235/33

XIII.42

Sent the following letter to the Land Customers:

To

Mr. G. Parry
Land Customer

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 23rd ultimo with its enclosures I am directed to transmit for your information and guidance the enclosed copy of the Board's (p.4458) letter to Government with extract from their reply.

You will herewith receive copy of the advertisement with translation in the country languages, which you will be careful to explain in the most particular manner to the servants employed under you, and for the information of the public. You will copies constantly fixed at the mettoo, and at some of the most conspicuous parts of the black town.

The salaries to your servants are to commence with the 1st day of the official year.

I am Sir
Your most obedient servant
S.R. Lushington
Acting Secretary

Port St. George
13th May, 1796.

XIII.43

Sent the following letter to the Land Customer:

To

Mr. G. Parry,
Land Customer.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th ultimo and the Board desire that the church wardens do attend them previous to any distribution of fees to the different Pagodas.

You are permitted to draw at the rate of 3 Pagodas monthly on account of stationery from September last.

Enclosed you will receive extract of a letter from Government whence you will perceive that they have been pleased to relieve you from the charge of the Land Customer and to appoint Mr. Arthur Brooke your successor. You will deliver over to him (p. 7207) the records of the office, with the balance of cash in hand.

The Board direct me to express themselves satisfied with the attention you have shewn to the duties of Land Customer.

I am Sir your most obedient
servant
S.R. Lushington
Acting Secretary

Fort St. George
5th August, 1796.

India Office Records: Madras Board
of Revenue Proceedings: P/235/33.

XIII. 44

Agreed to wait the result of Mr. Pawney's Proclamation.

The several Church Wardens having executed the following Muckulka.-

I, Medavayel Narrain Pillah, Church Warden of the Pagoda of Triplicane do hereby bind and oblige myself to keep regular accounts of the receipts, and expenditure of the funds of the said Church, and in the event of any complaint being exhibited against my management thereof by the (10204) inhabitants or others connected with the said Pagoda, I do further bind myself to lay all such accounts before the Board of Revenue, and to submit to any investigation, or order they may think necessary to institute or issue relative thereto.

Fort St. George
5th December 1796

The same executed by -

Runga Pilla	.. Church Warden of the Pagoda at Trecachiyoor
Vencat Rayer	.. Ditto to a part of the Charity of the Pagoda at Itreparamadore
Pargasarty Braminy	.. Ditto of the Pagoda at ^{collett -} Hattay- Petta near Trevathore.
Goday Mungaputty Naik	.. Ditto of the Pagoda at Chintadry Pettah
Manaly Chin ^w lah Modely	.. Ditto of Town Pagoda at Madras
Sedambara Pilla	.. Ditto of Yagambavason Pagoda at Madras
Tomboo Chitty	.. Ditto of Cachaly Easweren Pagoda at Madras.

India Office Records: Madras Board of Revenue Proceedings
5 Dec 1796

Culleppa Chitty^{te} .. Ditto of Conda Sawamy Pagoda
at Madras

Mopperala Subba Rayer .. Superintendent of Ravaniah's
Choultry near Chickencottah

Mutta Pillah .. Ditto of Gollen, Choultry at
Pullavarum to the Westward

Agreed to transmit a copy thereof for the
information of the Land Customer with directions
to pay off (18205)

XIII 45

To

James Call Esq.,
Sea Customer

The Humble Petition of
Chinoo Chitty, Chinandy Chitty,
Yellapah Chitty and
Cutty Chitty

Sheweth,

That from the remotest period that the English Government had been established at Madras, your Petitioners Ancestors had been employed as Weighers of all the weighing articles brought into this Port, which office they and your Petitioners continued to discharge with utmost diligence, and fidelity. For weighing the goods of the English Armenian, and Portuguese Merchants they are allowed nothing, but on those belonging to the natives for their pain and trouble at the rate of 10 cash per Pagoda, on the amount of weighing goods, brought in. And so they are obliged to work for all the said European, and Armenian Merchants, ~~and~~ for what little they receive ^{let} from the said native merchants.

But since January last, the said native (10376) merchants refuse to pay, unto your Petitioners, what they have hitherto done, taking advantage of the late new Regulations.

Your Petitioners are not paid by the Hon'ble Company for their trouble, therefore as it is not just, and reasonable that they should work for nothing, they most humbly beg, and entreat that your Honour will be pleased to order the said native merchants to pay unto your Petitioner the trifle they hitherto allowed them for their trouble. For weighing the goods, belonging to the Company, They are allowed nothing. Since January last, they are obliged to work without any pay or other emoluments, therefore it is an object of your immediate compassion to settle some pay for their livelihood and that of their family.

India Office Records:

Madras Board of Revenue Proceedings: 15.12.1796.

Lastly, your Petitioners are confident that if your Honour is not pleased to order the said allowance of 10 cash that you will order such pay as you may deem adequate to the said allowance. That the persons employed under the Land Customer (10377) in the same capacity as your Petitioners are under the Sea Customer are allowed certain monthly pay by Mr. Smith in doing which your Petitioner as in duty bound.

Shall ever pray

Minute Thereon

~~Shall ever pray~~ Before the Board can take into consideration the foregoing Petition, Resolved that Mr. Call be directed to state his opinion of the amount of allowance that should be granted to the Petitioners and to assign his reasons for not having provided for the duty, which they declare to be performed by them in the estimate of servants he formerly submitted, as competent to all the duties of the office.

XIII.46

Read the following letter from the Sea Customer.-

Edward Saunders, Esq.,
President and Members of the
Board of Revenue

Gentlemen,

I have received your Secretary's letter of the 16th instant, desiring me to state my opinion of the amount of allowance that should be granted to the Brokers mentioned in my letter of the 14th instant and to assign my reasons for not having provided for them in the establishment of servants formerly submitted to you.

Respecting the monthly allowance that should be made them, I think 3 Pagodas each will be an adequate pay. I beg leave to recommend that their arrears from the 1st January last may be granted to them. In my letter of the 14th instant I stated the reason of their having been & unprovided for in the (10593) new establishment of servants I formerly submitted to the Board, and I am truly concerned that such inadvertency should have heppened and have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble servant

(Signed) James Call
Sea Customer

Fort St. George
22nd December 1796

Minute Thereon

Agreed to sanction the allowance proposed by Mr. Call to commence from the 1st instant but to inform him the Board cannot authorise the discharge of the Brokers' arrears.

India Office Records: Madras Board of Revenue Proceedings
26.12.1796

XIII.47

Land Customer to the Board of Revenue:

(p.503)The church wardens have applied to me to have their original donation deeds returned to them, which were forwarded to you by my predecessor Mr. Parry with his letter of the 21.5.1795 and hope you will grant the request in having these deeds transmitted to me shortly, for the purpose of restoring them to the people with whom they were lodged in trust.

Board's Minute: 23.1.1797

(p.504)The church wardens original donation deeds ordered to (be) returned.

India Office Records: Madras Board
of Revenue Proceedings: P/235/43:
Extracts.

XIII.48

(p. 15) I shall agreeably to my promise, transmit a plan for the better regulation and conduct of the native (p. 16) revenue officers, but as it will be necessary for me to gain the best information possible upon this subject, to be able to suggest one that will answer in the fullest extent the design that is intended, I must beg permission of the Board to allow me time to consider maturely of this matter.

The disbursements of the amount specified in the 37th paragraph of my report; which it has been customary to allow on account of the ceremonies performed at the Pagoda feasts, falls more immediately under the management of the collector of the 4th Division, only a trifling part of it will be defrayed by me, 50 Pagodas for a small pagoda in the Amberpettah Purgunnah. He will of course ascertain and report the exact sum that has been usually granted on this account.

India Office Records: Madras Board
of Revenue Proceedings: P/235/5;
Letter from Mr. Branfill, Collector
3rd Division Masulipatan to the
Board: pp. 12-22: Proceedings
2nd January, 1795.

XIII, 49

Read the following letter from the Collector
in the 3rd Division of the Masulipatam District.

To

Edward Saunders, Esq.,
President and Members of the
Board of Revenue,
Fort St. George

Gentlemen,

Agreeable to your instructions contained in Mr. Secretary Harrington's letter under date 29th ultimo, I shall report on the Arrack Farm at Ellore as speedily as possible. It was my intention to have mentioned this subject in the report. I am preparing to transmit to you respecting the Ballances of the Ellore Havally, which I was in hopes I should have been able to have completed ere this, but of late I have been obliged to devote my whole time and attention to the collections in the Aumaunee countries, and to an (1817) investigation, I have set on foot into the conduct of my Tanadars and Peshcars and the Revenue officers in the Purgunnahs in the Noozed Zemindary, which I am sorry to observe has been extremely irregular and reprehensive. I find notwithstanding my repeated and possitive orders prohibiting all collections under the denomination of Grama Kirch ^{de} and that considerable sums have been collected on that account, not less than 20 per cent upon the gross revenues, the particulars of which shall hereafter be laid before you. At present, I am only able to furnish you with an account particulars of the extra collections in one Purgunnah, namely Pentapaid. It will however give you a complete insight into the nature of them and show you what various methods are practised by all ranks of people to defraud the Circar, particularly by the Revenue officers of the country, whose duty it is to prevent these kind of impositions. The Muzindar of this Purgunnah I have the greatest cause to complain of. he has not

India Office Records: Madras Board of Revenue Proceedings

March 9, 1795: P/285/8

only collected for his own use (1818) considerable sums of money, but has on various occasions oppressed the inhabitants very much by obliging them to furnish him servants and cattle to bring materials for a new house. He has lately been erecting without giving them the smallest recompense. He has also several times required them to provide him with grain at a lower rate than the market price by which they have been great losers. I have already made him refund the greater part of the sums he has taken and have put him into confinement, where I purpose keeping him until I am favoured with your sentiments regarding his future disposal.

My Tanadar and Peshcaur you will perceive have collected between them 191½ which amount *L. Pughdar* they have repaid to me, and I have returned it again myself into the hands of the inhabitants for which purpose I remained several days in that Purgunnah. I am in great hopes by being thus particular in restoring them their property it will induce the inhabitants of the other (1819) Purgunnahs to inform me when any sums not authorised by me are demanded of them. The Tanadar and Peshcar I have dismissed the service not merely on this account but because they have otherwise shamefully neglected their duty and suffered the Revenue Officers of the country to oppress the inhabitants with impunity. I think it necessary here to remark that I find the greatest difficulty in procuring proper persons as Tanadars. A man calculated for that station should not only possess integrity, but he should also comprehend every branch of the revenue in detail and be capable of detecting the various frauds that all classes of inhabitants are continually practising. But people of this description are rarely to be met with, and I confess I hardly know when to look for them. I hope however by carefully watching the conduct of such as are now employed by me and by punishing them severely when found guilty, I shall be able to prevent many of those abuses that are usually practised. (1820)

I have already ascertained the particular points to which I was directed to turn my attention in your letter under date the 8th November last, but

as it would take up much of my time to arrange them in order for your perusal, and the collections of the country at this particular period requiring my utmost attention and vigilance, I beg leave to express a hope that you will be pleased to allow me to postpone my report upon those subjects until I have nearly completed my collections which I conceive will take up about six weeks or two months.

I have the honour to be

Gentlemen

Your most Obedient Servant

(Signed) B. Branfill

Collector 3rd Division

Rajahmundry
25th February 1795

MINUTE OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE

(1821) The Board are well pleased with the diligent attention and exertions manifested by Mr. Branfill in the management of the Revenue committed to his charge.

It is very satisfactory to the Board to observe that the irregularities of the Native Officers and their attempts to defraud the Revenue have not evaded the collectors, viz. it is agreed to *likewise* desire that Mr. Branfill will keep the Mazoomdar of Pentapaeed in confinement till he receive the Board's orders on his further report regarding the impositions of the Revenue officers as also to desire he will *requisite* all his privileges immediately and report his opinion as to the punishment which should be inflicted on him as an example for his frauds and his oppressions.

Under the circumstances stated by Mr. Branfill the Board consent to his postponing the report alluded to in the last para of his letter for the period mentioned by him.

XIII.50

Read the following letter from the Collector in the 3rd Division of the Masulipatam Dist.

To

H. Saunders Esq.,
President and Member,
of the Board of Revenue,
Port St., George.

Gentlemen,

In my letter to you under date the 25th February last, I mentioned that it was my intention to transmit (p.3298) an account of the extra collections, that have been usually made in Pargunnahs entrusted to my care, under the denomination of Grama Kerch etc. similar to the account enclosed in that letter, which related merely to the Pargunnah of Pentapandoo. I have however experienced so much difficulty in procuring a correct statement of these collections and charges and have had so many obstacles purposely thrown in my way, I have not yet been able to complete it, but hope soon to have it ready for transmission.

To shew you under what pretexts these collections are made, and how very necessary it is for the security of the Revenue to make a new arrangement regarding them I now enclose a statement (No.1) of the amount levied last year on this account in the village of Peddapandoo in the Ellore Havaille, which clearly points out (p.3299) the different abuses that are practised by all classes of people connected with revenue and the shameful misappropriation of the public treasure. It appears by this account that the amount of the jummabundy settled was Madras Pagodas 1,505 including the sales of grain, charges, Moturpha etc. and the amount collected on account of Grama Kerch, was 500 Madras Pagodas which is upwards of 32% upon the settlement.

It has been generally understood that the inhabitants are great sufferers by these extra collections, and that they are very much oppressed by them. It is not however the case. They seldom fail to make good the demands that are made upon them by defrauding the circar of its due, and it would be found if a division of these losses could be clearly ascertained, and proportioned into five parts that the circar's (p.3300) loss would be four out of the five, and it even frequently happens that the loss falls upon the circar.

To prove beyond a doubt to you the truth of this assertion, I now submit for your inspection two accounts (No.2 & 3), the first is a calculation I have made to shew that the inhabitants never could afford to pay these charges out of their own share, consequently they must

India Office Records: Madras Board of Revenue Proceedings:
P/285/10: Dated 27-4-1795.

seek other means of doing it; and the second is an account I have obtained of the division of a small proportion of the crops of dry grains in the above village in ~~1202~~ 1202. To this last amount I beg ^{to} leave to draw your particular attention as it completely discovers one of the greatest frauds that is committed upon the property of the circar, and distinctly shews the source from whence the inhabitants are able to provide the means of defraying the charges (p.3301) alluded to. You will notice that this account states the actual produce at 31 Poolies, a little less than half of which ought to have been delivered to the circar, but by collusion between the inhabitants, and the Revenue officers the circar's share was reduced to 9 Poolies, which was not one-third part of it. Frauds of this kind are invariably practised in every village, but it is very difficult to detect them. The inhabitants and curmums after dividing the spoil take care to destroy such documents as may lead to a discovery, and only keep particular accounts that are intended for the inspection of the circar. The inhabitants of Peddapaudoo not having been able to agree amongst themselves that year, the original accounts were preserved, and have ~~sincerely~~ by accident fallen in (p.3302) my hands. The signature of the curmum is annexed to them.

Having in the foregoing Para stated to you such circumstances as have come to my knowledge, respecting the collections under the denomination of Grama Kerch as well as informed you of the improper use they have generally been applied to, I have now the honour of enclosing (No.4) for your perusal. The Regulations I have made regarding them, which I am in great hopes will prevent the abuses in future, as it is absolutely necessary to employ a number of extra servants during the harvest, such as anchanadars, mahasoldars, kyledars etc. etc. The Grama Kerch cannot be totally abolished without putting the circar to a very considerable additional expense, and as it has been always customary for the inhabitants to pay this charge, (p.3303) I have made a provision for it accordingly, but at a very reduced rate. The Grama Kerch as I have now regulated it, will not amount upon an average to more than 5% whereas it was before seldom less than 30%. It has been heretofore customary for the Tanadars to be allowed exclusive of their pay, a Taharier of 2 Pagoras for every large village, and one Pagora for every small one. The Peshcar and Hoozoor Muttasadies have also been allowed a Taharier, the particulars of which are stated in the Regulations. As these allowances have always been admitted of, and not considered as an oppression upon the inhabitants, I beg leave to express a hope that I may be permitted to collect them as usual and to pay the amount to the circar servants in the proportions established according to custom. The pay of the (p.3304) Tanadars which is but small at present, will be increased by it as also the salaries of the other cutcherry servants without any additional expense to the Cq. A statement shewing the increase to each servant ^{is} shall be forwarded hereafter.

A great part of the collections on account of Grama Kerch were formerly levied without the knowledge of the

Tanadars. But I have more positively forbid any collections without my express sanction, and any person or persons attempting to make any, will be most severely punished. Potts and firewood were usually delivered to travellers gratis in the different villages they had occasion to pass through but as this custom has been very much abused, I have found it necessary to abolish it altogether. That travellers may (p.3305) not ~~have~~ *however* suffer any inconvenience on this account, I have given directions that they should be supplied with these articles at a very easy rate.

I have the honour to be gentlemen.

Rajahmundry
13 April 1795

Your most obedient servant
Benjamin Branfill
Collector 3rd Division

XIII.51

Minute Thereon

When the Board are furnished with the report promised by Mr. Branfill regarding the extra collections usually made in the Pargunnahs under his charge they will be enabled to give him their full instructions on the subject. The accounts forwarded however No.1, 2 & 3 clearly point out the abuses practiced to defraud the circar of its just proportion of the Revenue and as they fully prove at the same time the gross misconduct of the revenue servants of the district in which Peddapaud is situated they agree to direct he will make an immediate example by the abolition of the Despaniah and musmadary officers.

It is also agreed to inform Mr. (p.3313) Branfill that the Board trust the arrangement proposed by him will be attended with very considerable advantage to the Revenue and tend to put a stop to many frauds and that they approve his establishing the Regulations contained in his statement No.4. That the Board also depend on his particular care that the assessment shall not exceed the rate he mentions (5%), that no part thereof be levied or demanded by any person under his authority but that the whole of the collection on this account be received into his Treasury and paid by him to the different native servants in such proportion as shall be determined upon when the Board are furnished with the promised list of distribution and his orders to this effect should be fixed in every catcherry for general information.

As the Despaniahs (p.3314) and Musmedars have invariably been guilty of the most shameful collusion and embezzlement, though ample privileges and emoluments were granted them by Government in order to bind them to a faithful discharge of their duty as public servants: The Board cannot admit of the allowances proposed in Mr. Branfill's regulations to those officers, on the contrary, so much is it their desire to see them excluded from all interference in, or connection with Revenue matters that it is agreed to enjoin the immediate resumption of the lands and privileges hitherto appropriated to their use, keeping in deposit the collections arising therefrom together with the allowances proposed in the Regulations as a fund from which rewards can occasionally be drawn and given to such deserving revenue officers, whose meritorious conduct in the (p.3315) faithful and diligent discharge of their duty the Collector may take occasion to report to the Board.

The Board approve of Mr. Branfill's fixing the price of articles of supply of every denomination that may be required by sepoys and passengers in general travelling or marking through the country and agreed to desire he will order a list of the prices signed by himself to be fixed

India Office Records: Madras Port Board of Revenue
 Proceedings: P/235/10: 27-4-1795: Minute of the Board of
 Revenue on the letter of Benjamin Branfill, Collector,
 3rd Division, Masalipattam.

up in places through which travellers may be expected to pass that detention or imposition may the better be avoided on the one side and evasion of payment, or contention on the other.

XIII 152

Read also the following letter from the Collector in the 3rd Division of the Masulipatam District.

To

Edward Saunders, Esq.,
President and Members of the
Board of Revenue,
Fort St. George

Gentlemen,

Enclosed I have the honour of forwarding to you, attested copy of a letter, addressed to me by the Superintendent of the Corcondah Havelly, upon the subject of the Maunium and grounds in that country, as also the accounts relating thereto. The particular attention I have been obliged to bestow of late, upon the aumanie countries under my management, and my writers having been employed in preparing the various accounts that are shortly intended for your inspection, I have not been able to forward these accounts so soon as I could have wished. (3317)

I have perused with attention, the judicious remarks made by Mr. Denton, upon the subject of the immense quantity of ground that is improperly alienated in the Corcondah Havelly, and agree with him on opinion that such persons who are unable to produce regular Puttahs or sunned from the late Zemindars should forfeit their mauniums; those granted by renters, subrenters, Curnums or the inhabitants of villages, are highly irregular. These people, who have not any property whatever in the soil, certainly cannot under any plea, claim a right to make away with it, therefore claims of this kind should not by any means be allowed of. The maniums appropriated for the maintenance of the peons heretofore in the service of the Zemindars should also be considerably reduced and every reasonable encouragement given to them to turn cultivators. I beg leave therefore (3318) to recommend that all the mauniums granted by

India Office Records: Madras Board of Revenue Proceedings

27 April 1795.

people unauthorised to alienate the lands from the Circar, be resumed, as well as those, for which the present proprietors cannot produce regular Puttahs ^{or} sunneds unless they can bring sufficient evidence that they have lost them by accident; As it requires however much circumspection in making these resumptions, I think it would be better to defer it until the commencement of the ensuing Fusly, when a proper arrangement might be made, nor can any inconvenience or loss occur to the renter on this account, although Mr. Denton seems to think, the resumption of the greater part of these mauniums, is the only means he has of escaping the serious losses of last year, as well as the probable ones of the present. In this particular I differ with that gentleman in opinion, for allowing that (3319) the whole of these mauniums are resumed, the profit arising from them should revert to the Circar and not to the renter, as it appears by the tenor of his Cowl, that he took the country in rent exclusive of the Enams, etc. Consequently, he cannot be entitled to the profits arising from the resumption alluded to. I humbly conceive, therefore, when the arrangements are made, that the amount of the renters lease should be increased, in proportion to the quantity of ground re-annexed to the Circar lands.

It is my intention to make a report separately upon the subject of the Enam grounds, in the different countries under my authority as I find there are many abuses that require to be corrected, which I hope in a great measure to effect although it is almost impossible to prevent them entirely. (3320)

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble servant

(Signed) Benjamin Branfill
Collector 3rd Division

Rajahmundry
3rd April 1795

XIII 53

To

Benjamin Branfill, Esq.,
Collector of the 3rd Division
Ellore and Rajahmundry Carcans.

Sir,

After a delay of time which notwithstanding my solicitude I found it utterly impossible to avoid and during much interruption from sickness, I have the honour to lay before you the Report of the Enamdars of the Corcondah Purgunnah.

This Report states under their various Heads, the name of the Enamdar who is the holder of the Pauktahs with the name of the Zemindar by whom (3321) it was granted and the period when.

The Dumbalas, being necessary permits to take possession of the crops and should be annual, are also mentioned being where they exist a corroboration that the claim was for that season admitted.

The situation and quantity are the next heads, with the total possessed by each individual.

The age, profession, residence and number of persons constituting the family of the claimant are next specified amongst which the multitude who live out of the Purgunnah and consequently are only pensioners will not I hope escape observation.

The last column was intended with remarks to describe the condition of such as were so poor as to be entitled to the charity of government but the whole being Bramins and whatever their real circumstances, beggars by education (3322) have almost universally claimed this distinction through I must confess I cannot view this charity at all in a favourable light but tending rather to the nursery of indolence, arrogance and am the less disposed to think favourably of it, as I do not find these subjects are restrained be cast or religion from the offices of Tillage and agriculture.

For the support of the poor, it is to be wished that every village furnished in proportion to

its size that the munificence of Government might be conferred only on real objects of compassion and then many of these persons themselves might be employed in the care of lands so appropriated.

The enormous quantity of ground assumed under the plea of grants to Enamdars for charitable purposes, has materially affected the Revenue of this country, and is so totally out (3323) of proportion to the Government lands, as to become an object of the first importance, that the collusion and abuses that has so long prevailed, but in particular of late should be corrected, and that these lands which have evidently even from this Report been improperly obtained should be resorted to their proper channel, by which ^{restored} alone the Renter can hope to escape the serious losses he sustained the last year in his engagement with the Company, and must inevitably meet with this, unless Government shall please to do themselves this justice in conformation of which I take the liberty of adding on account of the appraisement of the mauniums and Gherayetty crops of three villages as they have lately been taken.

Your astonishment on inspection of this report, cannot fail to be strongly excited as the prodigious (3324) quantity of ground that has been granted away by the Curnums, subrenters and inhabitants of villages, who from every enquiry I can make, are by no means considered as possessing a qualification of so extraordinary a nature, as the power to alienate and that for ever the property of Government. It is observable however that this practice prevailed during the time of the subjection of this country to the Moorish Government, which presided at too great a distance to correct the evil and we know that in consequence their collections were proportionably small.

I apprehend if the last shall be deemed a subject of astonishment, that your surprise will be still more powerfully attracted by observing the numerous claims that are urged even without the shadow of a right or under the poor pretence (3325) of Pultauks or Dumbalas being burnt. To these I humbly conceive there cannot arise the

smallest objection at their being at once expunged from the accounts; where such have eluded the notice of the Zemindar, we may with confidence ascribe it to the indolence that marks the character of persons in that situation or that the Deewan to whom is intrusted accounts of this nature had his motives for passing them over.

There is but little doubt that the Curnums of villages, who are in the present case the only managers of these accounts, have been guilty of almost every species of irregularity that could turn to their advantage, and that they have taken the opportunity their situation gives them of disposing of grants to favourites, and that on the demise of an (3326) Enamdar, if no relation arose, they have often annexed that also to their own privilege, little information that can be depended on therefore is to be expected from them. This shows a necessity for the grants, whatever may be authorised, being properly registered, first by themselves at the village at which they are granted, and then generally by the depondiahs of the district, to which I venture to hope your assent may be obtained and your signature given to those lists, in proof of their authority.

The immense quantity of land, claimed by the despondiahs, Curnums, peons and village servants as the customary reward for the performance of specific services that were required of them, is also a subject entitled to attention and is in many cases I apprehend much more (3327) than adequate to the duties they perform.

All these offices were held by prescription and were entirely at the pleasure of the Zemindar who increased, exchanged or abolished as he saw occasion.

The utility of the handicrafts men to a village, is I believe confessed, and though at some places are more than can be required, yet in respect to them, perhaps no alteration could be made with advantage to the country. *h. Thun*

But it is otherwise with the peons who were instituted merely for the protection of the graindhar of the Zemindars' peons, and over whom accordingly he exercised full controul. Nothing can be asserted therefore in the way of @right, for had such been his pleasure, the whole might be dismissed (3328) from his service.

This is a class of such turbulent and idle people, that I must request as a matter connected with the interest and sincerity of the country, that if they be not altogether abolished, that they may undergo a very considerable reduction and I shall use every means, by encouraging them to agriculture, to make them become useful subjects to the country: for in their present state, they are both a detriment and a danger.

I am informed, notwithstanding that the most public notice has been given by beat of Tom Tom and by advertisement and that tho' the Committee has continued setting to receive these accounts for six weeks past, that there are a great many holders of Puttaus who have not made their appearance and who (3329) either from contempt of the order or fearing an examination of their Pattau mean to abstain from doing so, should such be the case, I cannot help thinking they have deservedly forfeited their privilege, but in the event of after applications, beg to receive instructions on the subject.

The Committee who have formed this Report, and were four of the most respectable persons of the district, decline giving any opinion of the justice of such claims as have come before them, under an apprehension that ~~ask~~ for them to pronounce with that equity which the subject requires, they would be exposed to a load of odium that would render them very uncomfortable at the places they reside at and trust the points have adverted to, have stated in the Report, render such an office unnecessary. and they are (3330) inclined to hope moreover, that no difficulty will be found in acceding, from the particulars they have stated, on the equity of each individuals claim, though it has not been in their power to give the full information in respect to the claimants circumstances, the most of whom are strangers and live at a great distance.

As the crops are detained on the ground by which may suffer an inconvenience till a Division shall be passed on the subject, I have earnestly to entreat that the most early communication may be made to the Board of Revenue or such mode may be adopted as may bring the business to a speedy conclusion.

The Report being extremely voluminous and only capable of being sent at different times by the Tappal, This letter accompanies (3331) the first packet which shall continue to be sent at the interval of every one or two days till the whole shall be dispatched, of which I shall not fail to give the timely information.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Yours Most Obedient Humble Servant

(Signed) Alex. Denton
Superintendent

Sittinagram
16th February 1795

(A true copy)

(Signed) Benj. Branfill
Collector 3rd Division

XIII.54

MINUTE OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE
ON MR. DENTON'S LETTER DATED 16TH
FEBRUARY 1795

The Board are sensible of the labor and pains bestowed by Mr. Denton in informing the Registers now before them which contains information of much importance to Revenue, and it is agreed to communicate to him thro' Mr. Branfill their sense of the zealous exertion he has used on this occasion.

It appears by the comparative statement of three villages that the produce of the *lanium* *hm-* greatly exceeds that of the Government lands, the latter being posteyes 1041, the former 1459, an extraordinary disproportion. It further appears that the whole alienations of land in this small zemindary extend to 1836 pootys, equal to about 10,700 cawnies, and the greater part granted away by Curnums, subrenters and even the inhabitants of the villages and others possessing not a shadow of right to make even a foot of land. One person alone *Brama* *higunghon* *kibgam*, formerly a manager for the young zemindar possess grounds thus surreptitiously obtained (3334) to the extent of 359 cawnies.

In remedying an evil of such magnitude, the Board are at the same time anxious to prevent individual distress and they therefore concur in opinion with the Collector that it will be more expedient to defer making the resumption until the commencement of the ensuing Fusley.

In the meantime, it is agreed to submit the following Resolutions and opinions for the sanction of Government as rules for the guidance of this Board in all similar cases.

The Board are of opinion that only such alienated lands as are held by valéd grants or prescription of 30 years should be configed, they *hm-?* judge it proper to fix the period of prescriptive right anterior to the Company's administration by about two years in consideration of the anarchy which prevailed in the country and the unrestrained assumption of the lands to the great prejudice of the Revenue.

Resolved accordingly that possession of grounds (3335) obtained previous to the above-mentioned period of 30 years and which have been uninterruptedly continued to the present time be considered as valid. The Board think it proper to remark that the Committee of Circuit in 1784 recommended in respect to alienated lands in the Circars that such persons only as had valid grants or had held possession for 24 years should be confirmed which is a period anterior to that now proposed by about four years.

Resolved that all grants confirmed by Government since the cession of the northern Circars to the Company be held valid, but that all grants of lands made within the term considered to give prescriptive right (30 years) by any other authority and which have not been sanctioned by Government be deemed invalid and ordered to be resumed with the exception of lands or privileges appropriated for the support of places of worship and other religious or charitable establishments to be (3336) continued to the extent that may actually be found necessary for these purposes.

Resolved that those persons dispossessed, particularly of the moccasaws be allowed a preference to hold the same lands at a reasonable rate of assessment except the native revenue officers who are not to hold any lands or privileges but such as may be allowed them on account of their respective offices.

Resolved that those dispossessed who are aged persons or incapable of gaining a subsistence or managing the lands be allowed a reasonable pension for life to be paid from the Company's Treasury, the amount of which would be reimbursed from the produce of the lands resumed.

Resolved that the Collector be desired in arranging the information required by these Board's instructions dated the 8th November last respecting alienations of lands, whether in the Zemindaries or Havellies, to prepare a general statement of all alienations in each Zemindary according to the following form.

From this statement separate Registers of all the following classes are to be formed and transmitted along with it.

1. Lands held by grants considered valid by the foregoing resolutions or otherwise esteemed so by the Collector.
2. By prescriptive right considered valid.
3. Lands and privileges appropriated for support of places of worship and other religious and charitable institutions held by valid grants or prescriptive right together with a separate register of all such lands and privileges as have been appropriated for the same purposes within the term considered to give prescriptive right showing the dates when granted, by whom, their extent and for what particular objects, also, in an annexed column, what reductions or resumptions should in the opinion of the Collector take place, and his reasons for making them, (3330) in order that the preceding resolution excepting these lands from the general resumption may be carried into effect.
4. Lands and privileges held by Revenue Officers.
5. Lands held under the general denomination of mockasaws.
6. Grants considered not valid held by persons objects of charity.

These statements as in the General Statement, to show the names of the parties, the title deeds, by whom granted, the dates, the extent of the lands comprised in each grant, the nett collections made by each incumbent for the last ten or fifteen years, and annexing also in the column for that purpose such remarks as may be necessary for the full information of the Board and accompanying the same with copies of all the title deeds to be referred to respectively by number (3340) from the statements.

Resolved also that a further statement be required showing in the same distinct manner

all claims in the General Statement which not coming under the descriptions beforementioned are considered inadmissible with such explanations as the Collector may have to offer.

When the Board have all the necessary information and documents before them, no time will be lost in submitting the whole for the final determination of Government, with whom it will rest to confirm such of the claimants as shall appear to have just rights and it will be expedient to issue first sunned to them under the Company's seal and the signature of the Collector.

With a view to remove the difficulties to the due regulation and improvement of the country incidental to such grants as also to prevent future irregular (3341) alienations, and unjust exemptions in the Havellies, it will be an object to make a settlement with the Grantees to hold their lands at an adequate rent, and in lieu of the privileges accorded to them by their grants to receive an annual compensation payable from the Company's Treasury calculated upon the following principal, viz. having ascertained the nett revenue realised from the lands of each for the last ten years to take the average annual amount, from which having deducted the tax payable yearly to the Circar according to the sunned, the residue to constitute the compensation. This would insure to them a certain income and being confirmed in their lands subject to the same rate of assessment as the Circar in general, It would afford them the ^{lands} means of cultivation and thereby secure to them great advantages (3342). The period of continuance of this compensation would depend on the term for which the original Grant was given, whether hereditary, for life or any other specific period and separate registers might be kept of each class specifying every necessary particular to prevent abuses in the payment of the money as well as to ascertain the actual existence of the parties and further to preclude others from receiving the compensation after the demise of the present incumbents whose grants are for life only or for some ^{limited} duration. Should such settlement be approved by Government, and agreed to, by the parties, the Company

may be indemnified for the proposed annual compensations by proportionate additional assessment of the lands or in other words by demanding a proportionate higher rent for the Purgunnahs including such lands which would become liable (3343) to the same rate of assessment with the Circar lands in general.

XIII, 55

Proposed Regulations for the Grama Kerch
in the 3rd Division of the Rajahmundry
and Ellore Circar.

1. Rygusties are to be allowed Batta during the time the crops are on the ground at the rate of one seer of rice and a Dub per day from each village. *hooker*
2. Samithdars are to be allowed Batta during the whole year at the rate of 1½ seer of rice and 4 Dubs per day.
3. Mahsooldars are to be allowed Batta from the October to the end of May during the time the crops are on the ground at the rate of one seer of rice and 1 Dub per day from each village. *hooker*

Anchandars, Masatdars and Kyledars are to be allowed Batta at the rate of 1½ seer of rice and 4 Dubs each of per day and besides the mamool allowance of half a rupee from each village the days they value the crops, measure the grain or ground (3310). Tanadars, Peshcars and Cutcherry servants are to be allowed a Taharier yearly in the following proportion.-

		Rs.
For a large village	(Tanadars	.. 2
	(Peshcars	.. 1
	(Cutcherry servants	.. 3
For small "	(Tanadars	.. 1
	(Peshcars	.. ½
	(Cutcherry servants	.. 1½

Tullubdars Batta at 2 fanams per day.
Muzmoodars and Despondeahs of the Purgunnahs are to be allowed a Taharier yearly in the following proportion.-

For a large village	(1 Muzmoodar	.. 2
	(2 Despondiahs	.. 4

India Office Records: Madras Board of Revenue Proceedings
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For small village (1 Muzmoodar .. 1
(2 Despondiahs .. 2

Inhabitants and Curnums of different village are to be allowed Batta during the time they have occasion to attend at the Hoozoor Gutcherry.

The Curnums of a village are to be allowed pay to keep the account at the rate of 2 Pagodas per annum. (3311) Tahseeldars were are they sent to the different villages to collect the kists are to be allowed Batta at the rate of 2 fanams per day.

For Pagodas ceremonies at the rate of 4 Pagodas per annum.

Shroff Russooms to be allowed 1 Pagoda per village.

Saudelward to be allowed at the rate of 1 Pagoda per annum.

Charitable expenses - do -

(Signed) Benj. Branfill
Collector 3rd Division

N. B. Anchanadars are people who valued the crops.

Masoldars are people who measure the ground.

Mylidars are people who measure grain Pygusties are people who to go from village to village to see that the inhabitants do not make away with the grain that is on the ground.

Tullubdars are peons and sent to call the inhabitants or Curnums.

The above allowances will amount upon an average to five per cent upon the gross revenue.

XIII. 56

Read the following letter from the Collector in the 3rd Division of the Masulipatam District.

To

Mr. Stephen Lushington,
Secretary to the Board of Revenue,
Fort St. George,

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th November last and request you will inform the Board that in compliance with their wish, I deputed my Assistant to take a particular (563) survey of the village which Jaggermautrauze is desirous of obtaining in rent. The result of whose enquiries I have now the honour of laying before them.

The accompanying account contains every information that could be procured. Mr. Skinner personally superintended the measurement, which was performed by the Mashatdars of the village of Topilly and with the measure established by the late Jehour Ally Cawn, ten of which in length and the same in breadth is one pooty, the length thereof sixty English feet. The whole of the arable land, as also that occupied by the village was measured, the residue (which is very trifling) has always been kept as paths.

The mauniamdars hold their mauniams in virtue of their offices, and by prescriptive right, without any obligation being (564) annexed of cultivating the Circar lands and have not any sunneeds.

The particular grains with which the lands are this year cultivated are, castor oil seeds, cotton, doll, Sinnagalloo (a species of grain) flax and jonnaloo and there being but one kind of soil called kewedoo, (which answers to

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that description of ground known by the name of cotton ground) they seldom vary. There is not any paddy or low ground, nor are there any tanks, nullahs, gardens or tapes of any description.

The terms on which the cultivators hold their lands are as follows. Certain fields are in the first instance allotted to each, which they enter into engagements to cultivate for a certain period (seldom exceeding four years) when they have the option of quitting it and having another piece allotted to them, or keeping the (565) same by leaving their Cist raised, if the ground has improved, or by having a reduction made therein if on the other hand it should have decreased in value. It is requisite here to remark that although the whole of the ground is rented out to, and paid for by the inhabitants, yet not more than two thirds is cultivated annually, the remainder being permitted to be fallow for three or four years (as the nature of the soil may require) to recover itself which also serves for pasture for the cattle.

There will not be any grain ready to measure until the beginning or latter end of March, but the whole being vissibuddy or ground rent consequently no division of the crops ever taking place between the Circar and the inhabitants, and the actual value of the village being clearly ascertained by the averaged sum paid per Pooty by the inhabitants, viz., one year with another ten Pagodas, it will not, I imagine, be esteemed of any material consequence that the Board's orders respecting the measuring out of the grain has not been complied with.

I am,
Sir,

Your most obedient servant
(Signed) Benj. Branfill

Collector, 3rd Division

Rajahmundry
the 17th January 1799

XIII 157

MINUTE OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE
ON MR. BRANFILL'S LETTER : 26.1.1797

Agreed to inform the Collector the Board's object in directing him to ascertain the actual measurement of the grain and produce from Nabob pet was to establish from thence whether the assessment of 10 Pagodas per Putty is adequate to the actual value of the lands and therefore that he must secure the whole grain or other produce of the village as it may be cut, that an accurate measurement may be taken, at the same time reporting the average selling price of each sort of grain and he will explain to the inhabitants that in doing this it is not the Board's intention to increase the demands upon them beyond their existing engagements for the present year.

Agreed to direct the Collector to lay before the Board copies of the sunned on which the present inhabitants cultivate and that he will ascertain whether if the lands (563) they now occupy were to be secured to them and their heirs in perpetuity or to others willing to engage, they would agree to pay a higher unalterable revenue leaving to the Husbandmen whatever surplus may arise from improvement and full power to convert his lands to any use he may think proper, but subjecting it to sale in case of failure in paying the dues of Government, the ground of each cultivator to be distinctly marked. To prevent any mistake as to their intentions, the Board think it proper that the Collector should himself explain to the inhabitants what is here proposed, and to assure them that any agreement they may enter into on this principle will be held sacred and be secured to them under the Company's sunned, wherein it shall be declared to be unalterable. When the Collector has ascertained whether such an arrangement will meet the wishes of the inhabitants, he will report to the Board the terms they offer, and his sentiments on the policy and expediency of the plan previous to coming to any conclusion with the parties.

Agreed to direct the Collector further to inform the Board, if Nabob's ~~pett~~ be situated in the Rajamundry or Ellore Circar. By his letter, the measurement of a Peetty therein is 3,60,000 square feet and by his annual report the Peetty in Rajamundry (in which the Board suppose it to be

situated) is stated to be 2,30,400 square feet. The Board wish to know the average assessment levied on the latter Peetty for land of a similar description.

Ordered that the Collector be directed to state whether any customs are levied in the village and by whom. Finally that he do report if Mr. Skinner ascertained how long the mauniums have been in possession of the present holders and how far ^{the} accounts of the village were examined by him. If not examined, he will order ⁽⁵⁶⁵⁾ the Curnums to produce the oldest accounts in his possession that he may see whether the mauniums appear therein and agree in extent with what is noticed in his statement, taking the precaution, however of not making public his intention of so doing.

It is the Board's wish that Mr. Skinner's report to the Collector should accompany his address.

XIII.58

Read the following letter from the Collector at Dindigul (noticed in Consultation 4th May).

To

Edward Saunders, Esq.,
President and Members of the
Board of Revenue

Gentlemen,

I have now the honour to submit for (3908) your information the accounts of Shumbun Poody peetty and Goodelore together with those of Kanamanla Putty of which I shall speak more fully in the latter part of this address. The account particulars, No.1,2,3 will put you in possession of the amount of land cultivated and capable of cultivation and the abstract No.4 of the revenues drawn from those countries for the last 4 Phazelys amounting gross collection to Chuckrums 20,640-5-11, net 4,525-5-16 by which it will appear that the average gross collections amounted annually to Chuckrums 5,160-1-12 and that the largest sum collected in any one year was only 5,405-9. These are accounts I have taken from the Village Canicoplys and the Cowle granted by Nimbool Naigve. The Rajah of Trivaneore's Amildar confirms the justness of the amounts so far as they related to the actual sum collected for the Circar proportion as no regular division of paddy ever took place but every chay of (3909) ground was assessed at a certain rate for which the inhabitants received Cowle and gave Muchulkas. It is a species of under renting often practised by the native renters when the countrys are not rented to the Head inhabitants. I have likewise transmitted a statement No.5 which will, I hope, prove satisfactory and put you in possession of the present state of the country. You will be so obliging as to observe that 4 Kooleys make 1 Chay: according to the present measurement 625 square fathoms being 1 Kooley and 2500 square fathom 1 Chay. According to the former measurement 16 square measurements of 16 feet each square formed a Chay so that the present Chay contains 90,000 feet of ground, the former 65,536 and on an average each Chay according to the present measurement yields 44 Cullums of paddy. I used every means in

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my power without effect to obtain the accounts in Said Saib time. I was assured that Numbool Naigue (3910) had ~~the~~ taken them with him to Travancore. All the Conicoplys were changed when the Sultan lost the country. I have written Numbool Naigue on the subject and am in hopes of receiving the accounts.

⁴ Goodeloor is situated about 97 English miles nearly south of Dindigul and is watered by the Soeringalar or Goodelore Rivers which is dry many months in the year and which rises in the mountains that divide the district of Dindigul from Travancore. Goodeloor contains 9968 Kooleys, viz. 50 $\frac{1}{2}$ Chay of Nunja and 9785 Kooley of Punja land of the former 25 is cultivated, 15 Chay is appropriated to Manum and 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ still capable of cultivation which if effected and assessed at the highest rate at 13 cullum per Chay would increase the revenue in the Article Cheukruns 106-6. Of the 9785 Kooleys punja land.

2600 are mountains rocks and hills

6,100 high jungle and river (3911)

400 salt and sour ground

9 Pettah sheep pens and bullock Malls

4 fort

508 uncultivated arable land

112 cultivated

52 manium

The soil is uncommonly good but owing to the high Woods ^{land} of mountains that surround it rendered unhealthy to the inhabitants who are poor and live entirely on dry grain. Great number perish during the rains with fevers and colds and the smallpox which rages here every year with violence. These Circumstances deter others from settling here and as population decreases the jungles have in consequence increased. These jungles are infested with a great number of destructive animals, the

elephant and wild buffalow that ~~while~~ ^{inhabit} the Travancore Hills make great depredations among the crops. They usually come down after the rains (3912) set in and continue untill the end of September. The marks of the former are very visible in every part of the country but more particularly so in the nunja lands where many chays of ground are entirely trod down by them. The leopards and wild dogs likewise abound here and are very destructive in distroying cattle so much so that sheep and goats are very scarce here. The wild dogs hunt in packs and are very fierce. The high mountains that form the valley of Dindigul join here and form a circular barrier, to the south west of which there is a pass over the mountains into the Travancore country. It is 15 malabar miles to the first village which is on the mountain and called Talamale. It is reckoned by the merchants, a journey of 10 days from the Fort of Goodeloor to Travancore. I take the liberty of enclosing you the stages (No. 6). The paddy not consumed in these districts, is carried on bullocks into the (3913) Travancore country from where salt ~~and~~ etc. is returned. The Fort is of mud and of no strength and the Pella contains 36 houses. The climate is pleasant and to an European constitution I should think healthy.

Cumbum is about 8 miles north of Goodelore on the direct road to Dindigul. It is watered by the Sorungalor and Seeroobyar or Cumbum river, the latter flows all the year. The fort here is larger than at Goodeloor but equally incapable of defence. The Pettah is large and contains 496 houses. The country contains 13,673½ Kooleys of ground, viz. 480½ Chay of nunja and 11,752½ Kooleys of panja of the nunja lands 75 are appropriated to maniums 294 cultivated and 111 7/16 remain uncultivated. Of the 11752½ kooleys of punja land.

4250 are mountains, hills and rocks

3125 high and thick jungle

982 river water courses and nullahs

343 tanks (3914)

215 salt and sour ground

273 topes

67 Pettah sheep pens and bullock stalls

6½ Fort

409 ³/₈ Uncultivated arable land

1946 ¹/₈ Cultivated

132 Maniums

The climate here is healthy and pleasant and the people more opulent than at Goodeloor. In other respect the remarks made on that place will be applicable to Cumbum. Here there is likewise a pass across the mountains to the West direct to Cochin. It is reckoned by the merchants 125 miles or 6 days journey. I have enclosed a list of the stages. Todoccooby Pettah is 10 miles south of Cardamunglem which I conceive to be the direct road from Palamcotah to Poligautcherry. I have been particular on the subject for though not immediately in the revenue line I conceived it might be considered as a necessary information (3915) in respect to Tappals, etc. A constant traffic is carried on between Cochin, Travancore and the Dindigul district. The pepper plant is native here and I should hope by culture might be rendered on article of revenue.

Coddypetty, a small mud fort about 5 miles North of Cumbum well watered. The country consists of 718 kooleys of ground whereof 44 Chay is nunja. Of these 9 ⁷/₁₆ are manium and the remainder nearly all cultivated, ¹³/₁₆ only being left uncultivated. Of the 535 ¹/₆ of punjah lands 125 kooleys are mountains, hills and rocks, 217 high and thick jungle

7 Pettah sheep pens and bullock stalls

1 Fort

1 Pagoda

1 Tank

1 Tope

4 Salt and sour land ground

41 ¹/₈ uncultivated (3916)

123 cultivated

13 Manium

The elephants, etc. continue their depredations here but in a much less degree than at Cumbum and Goodelôore. I conceive not one in a few come so far down as this. The village consists of 44 houses.

Having now Gentlemen given you the present state of these countries, I shall beg leave to draw your attention to a few general remarks on the whole. The cultivation for this Phazeley varies from the preceding which you will perceive by the statement No. 5. At Goodelôore the cultivation of nunja has decreased $7\frac{1}{2}$ Chay owing to the inhabitants of 10 houses—owners of the lands having emigrated in consequence of sickness. The cultivation of punja increased 48 Kooleys. At Cumbum the cultivation of nunjah has increased $111\frac{7}{16}$ chay and the decrease of punja amounts to (3917) Kooleys $81-7/8$. At Poddypetty, The decrease of punja is $15-9/10$ of a kooley. So that at present there remains $19-3/16$ chay of nunja and $1179-3/16$ of punja uncultivated independent of $221-11/32$ chay of nunja; at Cumbum $62-5/8$ ch at Goodelôore: amounting in all to chay $283-31/32$. This land is entirely over grown by jungle and rendered otherwise (?) incapable of yielding paddy by these three tanks having been destroyed many years past, 2 at Cumbum and one at Goodelôore; the expence attending the necessary repairs of tanks and clearing the jungle will be considerable. I have not yet ascertained the amount, but the increase of revenue would amount to about 2,000 Chuckrums annually besides which you will observe that above 9000 kooley of punja lands are entirely jungles and never have been cultivated but the soil is so good that if cleared the greatest part of it would be productive, could inhabitants be procured, but I much fear unless some assistance (3918) can be given. This never will be effected. You will pardon my observing that if a part of the pioneer corps could be spared, the advantage to this country would be very great as the cutting away these jungles would not only destroy the harbour for wild beasts, but render the country much more healthy to the natives than it is at present, and I have little doubt but numbers would then be induced to reside in those countrys and cultivate the new cleared ground. I am aware Gentlemen that the present revenue drawn from Cumbum and Goodalôore falls very short of the sum of which they have been estimated to you. I have to regret that all

all the accounts examined by my predecessor were removed from this Cutchery previous to my taking charge. The lands were measured by order of the Sultan in Fazelly 1198 and unless this measurement should prove erroneous, I cannot see from what source of revenue 12,900 Chuckrums could (3919) have arisen in Phazeely 1199. I am now remeasuring all the Circar lands as the only means to ascertain their real value and prevent imposition.

In your letter of the 16th and 17th February, you require a statement of the loss sustained by the Company in consequence of the Rajah of Travancore having taken possession of Cumbum and Goodalore and likewise respecting the conduct of Numbool Naigve. I have no reason to think he oppressed the people or took more than a fair assessment of the crops. The enclosed statement,

No. 4 will show the actual receipt and disbursement for the 4 last years of the gross collections at Cumbum and Goodalore. This year the Poonyalle Rajah collected at Goodalore 278 Chuckrums and Numbool Naigve at Cumbum and Poodyputty 1,588-1 on all Churkrums 1,866-4. The charges collection from 12th of July 1794 to 12th January 1795 amounted to 2,088 Chuckrums. The loss of revenue attributed to the Rajah of Travancore, (3920) people at Cumbum and Goodalore having altered the course of a fine river which formerly watered a large part of the Outampullam Taulook estimated at 7,539-1-53/64 annually must be attributed to some other course as both the Cumbum and Goodalore rivers run directly through the Outampollam Taulook, the former of which fields at all seasons a plentiful supply of water.

Hanamunlaputty. I shall now Gentlemen request to draw your attention to the village of Hanamantaputty. I have the honour to enclose an account particulars No. 8 showing the quantity of land and revenue drawn therefrom for the 4 last Phazellies. This village was granted to the father of Appaujee Gounden by Vadahungoor Rajah of Cumbum on the 12th October 1760. Copy and translate of the Pallayam or Grant I enclose No. 9. It will be necessary to observe that during the Government of the King of Mysore Cumbum and Goodalore with its dependencies formed a separate district from

Dindigul and was held by the king (3921) of Travancore under whom as subjects, but not tributarys, the Poonyattoo Rajah held Goodalore as an hereditary right and had an ~~uncontrolled~~ uncontrolled power over that place and the villages on the Goodelloore Hills appertaining thereto, and that the Vadahungoor Rajah had an equal authority over Cumbum and its dependencies, viz. Hunamantoputty, Poodyputty and Mocheniollo or Mokyen Cottah. On Hyder Ally possessing himself of Mysore he joined the Cumbum and Goodaloor district to the Outampollam Tallook and received tribute from the Poonyattoo and Vadahungoor Rajahs. It was during this period that Hunamentaputty was granted to Appajee Gunden who enjoyed it for about 10 years when Hyder sequestered Cumbum and Goodaloor and the Rajah escaped to Travancore. At this period Comby was likewise sequestered and the Poligar escaped with his family to Travancore where he remained until the War of 1780. During the short period the English held the (3922) province of Dindigul he was restored to his country by the order of the Revenue Civil servant, I believe Mr. Sullivan. Veneaty Sawmy Naig was the Amildar of Dindigul at the time. On the Sultan's regaining possession of Dindigul, Said Saib ^{informed} Appajee Gunden in the Pollam of Comby and allowed him the watching fees for Cumbum and Goodaloor, ^{confirmed} this it remained until the Rajah of Travancore took possession of the country in 1790 when he restored Goodelloore to the Poonyattoo Rajah (who is since dead) and Hanamantaputty to Appajee Gunden, but struck off the watching fees from the latter allowing his Amildar Numbool Naig to keep up a sibendy of 260 peons in lieu thereof to guard the crops. These fees he has now applied to me to allow. Hanamantaputty is in a high state of cultivation owing to Appajee Gounder having brought cattle and inhabitants from his Pollam of Comby to assist in the culture. It yielded (3923) last year Colly chuckrums 1,114. Hitherto no kist has ever been demanded for this village, but should you Gentlem be pleased to confirm the right of Appajee Gunden thereto, he will readily pay a tribute therefor equal to what it would rent for if kept as Circar lands. You will be pleased to observe it is included in the 7 villages appertaining to Comby as transmitted by my predecessor. It should be unjust to the Poligar if I was to omit the opportunity of recommending him to your favour.

He very readily produced me his account of Hanamantaputty and gave me every information I required and left orders with his people to give every assistance to my servant in remeasuring the lands of Hunamantaputty. I remained 3 days at Comby and went through the villages and examined the lands. I must confess I never face a country in higher order than this Pollam. It is high ground. The produce is dry grain. (3924) He has cleared away nearly all the jungle and made the country quite open to the foot of the hills. His conduct to his people is so very lenient and his assessments so easy that out of at least 5,000 inhabitants, there is not a necessitated man. He readily gave me every information of his Pollam and I shall take the liberty of adding that it will give me much satisfaction should you accede to his request of adding Hemamantaputty to Comby as I am convinced any favour you may be induced to show him will have good effects on the conduct of the other Poligars in inducing them to place an equal degree of confidence in the faith of and respect to the orders of your Board. It now only remains for me to add that from the present state of Cumbam district I am fearful a larger revenue than 6,000 Chuckrums cannot be expected from them the ensuing ^{harvesting} Phasely but as I ~~may~~ propose ~~renting~~ a great (3925) part of the year in this part of the valley, I shall be enabled certainly to bring them to their real value and I hope it may exceed that sum. I have enclosed you an account of servants No. 9 that will I think be absolutely necessary amounting monthly to Chuckrums 177-2 or Star Pagodas 101-14-57. I am fearful you will consider the charge very high but the situations of these countrys are such that a considerable number of peons are indispensably necessary and the inhabitants are very dissatisfied at the great deduction, I have already made. As you will observe that they are now 185 less in number than they were when the country was under the management of the Rajah of Travancore. They are very desirous to be allowed a Poligar Watcher but this I could not by any means admit of without previously obtaining your sanction. In the former part of the address (3926) I mentioned that Appajee Gounden was formerly the Watcher of Cumbum and the lands allowed for watching fees amount to 91 Chay of nunja land and ~~yield~~ yield at present to the Circar Chuckrums 581-4, viz.

70 Chay at Cumbum 32 assessed at 10 Cullums		
	per C	320
	38 D.....13½	<u>513</u>
		Cullums 733
8 Chay at Poodyputty assessed at 57 D..		136
13 Chay at Goodeluh ^{re} now uncultivated ...		<u>869</u>
	At 6 fans. per cullum) nett. collection)	521-4
and if the 13 Chay at Goodeloor was cultivated and assessed at 13 Cullums it would net		<u>101-4</u>
	Total	622-8

Should you Gentlemen allow of watching fees for these countrys, I shall discontinue 50 of the peons which will decrease (3927) the charges of collection 75 Chuckrums per month or 900 Chuckrums per annum, which will be a saving ^{of} the Circar of ^{h to} 277 Chuckrums independent of the Poligar being answerable for all losses that may ensue and as these fees are allowed at every other village, I take the liberty of recommending ~~kwir~~ them in this instance particularly as they are considerably lower than those allowed in the other parts of the Outumpollam Talook. Should fees be allowed, I shall endeavour to settle them as favourable for the Circar as possible allowing part of the Cumbum fees in punja and part in nunja. I have reason to think the Customs at Goodeloor will prove much more productive than they have hitherto done. I have been obliged to allow two ^{lists of hants} servants for the collection as one of the Chokeys is situated at Talama. This has occasioned an increase in the servants pay of Chuckrums 8.9 monthly.

The increase of customs received last month in consequence was 25 Chuckrums.

I have the honour to be,

Your most obedient servant

(Signed) Goerge Wynch

Sent the following letter to the Collector of Dindigul.

XIII.39

To Mr. George Wynch,
Collector at Dindigul

Sir,

We have received your letter of the 22nd ultimo with its enclosures. (3974)

We are at a loss to understand in what manner the accounts of the village Conciopies could afford you correct information of the actual charges (which were made by the manager) and net collections of the villages of Cumbum, Poodaputty and Goodalore tho' they might of the Gross Produce and collections and we are equally unable to comprehend how the Cowle of the Numbool Naigve could confirm the justness of their accounts. If this Cowle afforded any such confirmation we are surprised you did not think it necessary to forward copy of it for our information. You tell us "I used every means in my power without effect to obtain the accounts in Said Saib's time. I was assured that Numbool Naigve had taken them with him to Travancore. All the Conicopies were charged when ~~when~~ the Sultan lost the country." Notwithstanding these and other circumstances might have reasonably led you to suspect a collusive conduct on the part of the Rajah's amildar Nombook Naigve and the conicopies (3975) in concealing the real state of the produce and collections ~~and we~~ we do not find that you adopted any checks to guard against imposition altho' it might to have occurred to you that the village conicopies had probably a motive in concealing past malpractices, as also for the purpose of lessening the present value of the lands in order that they or their connections might be favoured in the future assessments. Numbool Naigve had an equal interest in keeping ~~of all~~ you ignorant of any improper transactions and his conduct in carrying off the accounts of the districts during the management of Said Saib too plainly declared his desire to conceal from you the real state of the country. The Company's just claim to indemnification for the sums collected on account of his master from the districts after the time appointed by himself for their being delivered up was a further reason for your acting with great precaution in the admission of accounts from such hands.

We are at the same time sensible of (3976) of the difficulties in obtaining accurate information of the value of newly acquired country which cannot be attained but with the utmost diligence and circumspection and the advantage to result from a re-measurement of the lands of course (on which we acquiesce) solely depends upon the

fideli ty and attention of those to whom you confide this duty and evinces the necessity of a most vigilant superintendance on your part to see it properly executed.

We desire that you will state to us from what materials you obtained the particulars of the lands contained in your statements No.5 and 8 and what checks you established to prevent imposition.

We approve of your enquiries respecting the Bear roads to Travancore and Cochin, and recommend to you to afford every encouragement to the trade and communication between Dindigul and the Malabar Coast.

We direct that you depute a person, in whom you can confide to take a particular account (3977) of the road to Travancore by the south west pass; to ascertain if it be passable by carriages, guns ^{and} and the distance from each stage at which water may be obtained, the exact number of miles between each place with every other necessary information.

You will also direct a similar enquiry to be made of the western pass to Cochin ascertaining also if there be a direct road from Palamcottah to Polgautcherry and particularly marking what part of it passes thro the dominions of Tippoo and whether tropps and carriages may pass with ease and if there are supplies of water at what distance. We need not observe that these enquiries should be made with the greatest caution.

We desire that you will state to us the amount of the watching fees of Cumbum, Goodalore and Honamantaputty in money as well as land and as you have not proved by any document forwarded the right of Appagee Goundon to the latter, we cannot admit of his holding (3978) it on any other footing than that of a Cowle as Renter. But you will endeavour to persuade the Head inhabitants of these three villages to take the lands in rent on their own account fully explaining to them the advantages they will derive from a direct rather than an intermediate communication with the Government under whose protection they live transmitting such proposal as you may receive for our division accompanied with your opinion thereon, founded on the further information you may have obtained.

In reply to your letters of the 12th and 21st March in regard to the Pollam of Cunneyvaudy, we enclose you copy of our letter to Government on this subject with extract from their reply for your information and guidance.

We are,
Sir,

Your most obedient servant

(Signed) Edward Saunders
and Members

Fort St. George
12th May 1795

XIII.60

Read the following letter from the
Collector at Dindigul.-

To

Edward Saunders, Esq.,
President and Members of the
Board of Revenue

Gentlemen

This day I received your letter of the 20th instant and trust that a short explanation will do away those unfavourable sentiments which you seem at present to entertain; and evince that no exertions on my part has been wanted to ascertain the real value of the several Pollams in this district. The accounts I had the honour to transmit you, not having been deemed sufficiently explanatory, I have now enclosed the account particulars. These accounts were taken from the Village (7552) Conicopolys and altered to by them; the principal sumprettys having signed thereto for the whole. I have likewise sent you copy of the Malabar account. These accounts forming a part of my General Statement now preparing for your information was my reason for not troubling you with them on the 6th instant.

You are pleased to call on me for the names of the persons employed in the survey and measurement of the Madoor and Choakamputty Pollams. The whole of the lands were surveyed by Soubah Pillay and great part of them by myself. In respect to measurement, I did not presume to adopt such an innovation, as measuring (7553) the lands of any Poligar without your express orders for so doing. Had I done so, and those consequences predicted by my predecessor in his letter of the 25th July, had ensued (and which he thought likely from the most trivial circumstance of innovation on the privilege of any of them) I should have subjected myself to your severest displeasure. I beg leave to refer you to that letter, and altho' I by no means wish to impress you with an idea that the sentiments of my predecessor in respect to the Poligars in

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all respects congenial with mine, yet I am of opinion that the measuring their lands would cause a general alarm. Should you however, Gentlemen, think differently, your (7554) orders so far as they depend on me shall be enforced.

It is with concern that I observe you think it necessary to call my attention to the orders of Government under dated the 4th of February 1795, transmitted me in your letter of the 10th of that month. I have never been unmindful of those orders ~~never~~ but I conceived that it was the determination of Government to increase the Peshkush for the ensuing Phazely in the sum of Polly Chuch, 19,044-5 or Star Pagodas 10,882-25-60, But that, in the event of that, or a more considerable increase of revenue being drawn from the Pollams I understood it to be the determination of Government and the wish of you, Gentlemen, that (7555) the increase should be so divided as to be the least oppressive to the Poligars, if I am right in this conjecture you will I hope have the goodness to forego the forming an opinion of my conduct in this particular until I am enabled to furnish you with a statement of the Pollams in general, with the Peshkush proposed. No moochelka from the Poligar of Madras was delivered me by my predecessor, or any documents respecting the Pollams or copies of country correspondence whatever. I ~~am~~ ^{was} not unmindful that my predecessor informed you on the 5th of December last that a moochelka had been given by the Poligar of Madoor, but on enquiry was assured (7556) by the Sumpretty and Hussoor servants that they were totally ignorant of the transactions. Little however could have been expected from such moochelka as a Tassildar was actually residing in the Pollam at the time and securing the crops for the purpose of liquidating the private debts. I should rather suppose that the moochelka had been promised but not given. The accounts I have now the honour to enclose will I hope prove satisfactory. I have subjoined the assessments on which I have valued these Pollams for your information. I beg leave to refer you to my letter of the 6th instant when I recommended the appointing of Tassildars on the part of the Company as the most likely mode of paying the growing kists and liquidate the

old balance. I can only repeat my assurances^(L7557) that I will use every precaution to prevent imposition and bring as large a credit to the Company's accounts as possible. The vicinity of Madoor and Chokumputty to Dindigul will doubtless enable me in future to pay them particular attention, but you will permit me to observe that hitherto a very short period of the time I have had the honour to reside in this district has been spent in Dindigul, as during the 9 months I have had charge I have nearly made the tour of the whole district.

In consequence of your letter under date the 17th instant, I wrote to the Poligar of Madoor who has consented to determine the dispute by arbitration. The Poligar of this place having likewise agreed to this measure they this day nominated the following persons as arbitrators:-

For Madoor

for Maranoor

Camersamy Moodely
Annagee Row

Mooteralopilly
Iya Cooly Iyen

The penalty bonds are making out and I shall have the honour to inform you of the result.

I have received your letter of the 18th instant with its enclosures and shall attend to the directions contained therein. I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant

(Signed) George Wynch

Maranoor
30th September 1795

XIII.61

From the answer he has given, it appears there was stronger reason for calling his attention to the orders of Government under date the 4th February and transmitted to him on the 10th March than the Board apprehended at the period of writing to him on the 20th ultimo for he has put a forced construction on those orders of which they cannot be rendered susceptible, as Government thereby unequivocally expressed their "determination to adhere to the settlement proposed by Mr. Wrangham". From whence therefore he has inferred it to be the determination of Government and the Board's wish that this proposed settlement (7563) should be deviated from, they are at a loss to conceive. The Board will, however, wait the general statement promised by Mr. Wynch, trusting it will be supported by the most unquestionable documents he can procure, and it is agreed to desire he will forward it with the least possible delay.

Mr. Wynch has neglected to report to the Board the measures adopted by him for the recovery of the arrears due by the Poligars of Madras and Chockampetty as directed in the letter to him of the 20th ultimo; and in regard to the Mochelka stated to have been taken from the former Mr. Wynch says "I was not unmindful that my predecessor informed the Board (7564) on the 5th December last that a mochulka had been given by the Poligar of Madoor, but on enquiry was assured by the Sumpretty and Hussoor servants that they were totally ignorant of the transactions. Little however could have been expected from such mochulka as a Fassildar was actually residing in the Pollam at the time and securing the crops for the purpose of liquidating the private debts. I should rather suppose that the mochulka had been promised, but not given."

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8th October 1795 (extract)

This explanation, the Board can by no means deem admissible, as in the first place it was Mr. Wynch's duty to have reported without loss of time if the Moochalka was not delivered into his possession, but that Board must consider him still further culpable in (7565) having omitted the communication in his letter of the 6th ultimo when he addressed them particularly on the subject of the arrears in question, - and as to the Tassildar residing in the Pollam to secure the crops for the purpose of liquidating the private debts, it was of course the duty of the Collector to interpose his authority, and to prevent such a misappropriation of the revenues. Mr. Wynch has already been informed that no private claims whatever are to be permitted to interfere with the realisation of the public revenue nor ought such claims as those stated by him to be in any shape acknowledged, or admitted.

As Mr. Wynch has given his opinion that the only means of obtaining payment of the arrears due from these Pollams (7566) and at the same time of securing the regular discharge of the current revenue is by placing a Tassildar on the part of the Company therein, agreed to desire he will assume the management thereof and submit to the Board the arrangements he proposes establishing to secure the object in view, making it known that, the measure is dictated equally as a punishment of the Poligars for their neglect of their public engagements as to secure the arrears, and future regularity in their payment and that their restoration to their Pollam when the incumbrances are cleared off, will depend upon their conduct during the sequestration and that no cause for interference on their part may exist. Agreed that Mr. Wynch be desired to submit his opinion in regard to (7567) the allowance which he think adequate for the support of themselves and families.

Read the following letter from the Resident at Cuddalore.-

Edward Saunders, Esq.,
President and Members of the
Board of Revenue,
Fort St. George,

Gentlemen,

Herewith I have the honour to enclose copies of such proposals as have been given in for renting the farms of the cocoanut trees, boutiques and stamps at Pondicherry for the space of one year and I beg leave to recommend that the proposal of Mootiah Gramny....

XIII.62

To

George Wynch, Esq.,
Collector of the District of Dindigul

Sir,

In obedience to the orders of Government of the 10th ultimo, I have herewith the pleasure of enclosing for your information, four tables containing the Batta of all ranks of European commissioned officers, of all ranks of natives in a corps of native Infantry, a statement of the (9912) Camp equipage fixed for a native Corp of all Infantry when employed on service, and lastly a small statement which I have drawn out to show you more satisfactorily the proportion of followers and cattle which I consider you should allow for each description of tents, that may be provided to the Detachments which may occasionally serve with you together with their pay, On the Head of Pay, I have nothing to furnish you excepting what you will find in these, as there are no separate details of revenue or Sibbendy troops employed wix in the districts under your superintendance, but besides what I have communicated, Had I more than one office copy of the Book of Government Regulations for the Military Expenditures, I should certainly have sent a copy (9913) of each to you and Mr. Pawney, as the most useful and necessary information you could receive. Adverting however to such military expences as have arisen from your requisitions, what I have now transmitted will doubtless be sufficient for the present or else you have only to apply on any future occasion when more expences may arise, and I beg leave to assure you it shall then be most readily afforded.

There is however one particular matter that I deem necessary to call to your attention. European officers south of the Coleroon are constantly in receipt of the fixed charge of half Batta. It can therefore be only the extra half Batta which may be incurred on their account in consequence of your requisitions that (9914) should in my opinion

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be debited on Revenue as their fixed half Batta should, I have considered, always appear in the military accounts.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your very obedient humble servant

(Signed) Robert Hughes

Military Paymr.

Madura
6th December 1795

(A true copy)

(Signed) George Wynch

XIII.63

Read the following letter from the
Collector of Poligars Peshcush -

Edward Saunders, Esq.
President and Members of the
Revenue Board

Gentlemen

On the 7th instant, I had the honour to receive your letter of the 29th ultimo which conveys to me your commands relative to the Report required by my predecessor and alluded to in your letters to me of the 14th July and 19th December 94, and informs me that you are more desirous to receive the fullest information from me in consequence of a late letter from Government (copy of which with Extract of the Company's Political Dispatch you transmit) (1493) respecting the Polygar countries, and that as they had expressed a wish to have your opinion with as little delay as possible, you desire I would give the subject the earliest and most mature consideration and report to you my sentiments as to the best mode of carrying into effect the orders for disarming the Poligars, for adjusting their disputed claims, and for the introduction of such a system of internal management as shall have a tendency to restore these distressed provinces from their present state of anarchy and misery to a state of subordination and prosperity.

The object that your Board had in view in requiring the report was to relieve the country from the disorders which arose from the collection of the Dessa Cawell fees by the Poligars by giving them credit for the amount in their Peshcush for which his Highness the Nabob was to be accountable and to found a system thereon to preclude the (1494) necessity of the Polygars entering into the Berhar lands, or having any interference with them or the inhabitants of them.

I have to confess that this subject has frequently occupied my attention and that I have endeavoured to inform myself fully and minutely of the

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on Poligar Peshcush

institution of watching, and the general connection which subsists between the Poligars and the Sirkar, but the result of my observations having led me to form very opposite conclusions to those pronounced by Marquis Cornwallis, that the evil complained of by the Nabob, of the irregularities committed by the Poligars would be easily remedied by their demands on the Sirkary inhabitants being collected by the Nabob's Aumils, and the Poligars credited for the amount: that I was diffident of my own opinion and cautious of committing myself on a subject which involved so many important considerations and I was the more encouraged to be silent on it, as the evils complained of had (1495) in a great measure ceased without having recourse to the expedient proposed.

I shall now gentlemen obey your commands and enter into a detail of circumstances which may, possibly assist you in making your report to Government.

The first point which appears to me deserving of investigation is the origin of Cawel fees. It is, I believe an institution common to all parts of India, and of a very ancient date; lands were formerly allotted to Head inhabitants, whose duty it was to preserve the peace of the country and to watch it against thefts of common robbers.

The Poligars in the Tinnevelly province I am informed, never were considered in the above light of Head Inhabitants, but independent Chieftains residing in the hills and mountains (1496) occasionally levying contributions on the level countries, but possessing no part of them. The weakness of the Nabob's Government and the disorders which were inseparable from the mismanagement of the Phouzders, encouraged them to take their advantage, and they usurped some parts of the Sirkar lands, obtained grants by under mean of others, untill they became possessed of those lands which they now consider as their lawful property.

The Desha Cawel or District Watching in the Tinnevelly province originated in the frequent depredations committed by the Tullum Cawel carratrs both upon the property of Government and of individuals in that country.

With respect to the Rights by which most of the Poligars hold their lands, I have reason to believe they are very defective, but as investigation carried back to the origin of these resurreptions would be impracticable and the tenure by which they hold them seems so (1497) disputable that it would lead to strip every one of them of a great part of his lands.

In possessing these lands, they became so intimately connected with the Sirkar Government, that they are not only watchers, but absolutely inhabitants belonging and dependent on it. I shall instance their situation in the several relations in which they stand, and your Board will thereby be enabled to judge of the practicability of preventing the Poligars from having interference with the Sirkar country.

1. Villages were granted to the Polygars on condition of their furnishing armed peons when called upon by the Sirkar; those villages are so far to be considered dependant on the Sirkar, that in the event of the Poligars not fullfilling the terms by which they are held, they are liable to be forfeited.

2. The Polygars are Cawel cariahs. The office of which has been already explained but (1498) their duty in many cases renders them dependant on the Sirkar.

3. The Poligars (from some means or another) have obtained grants of Mauniam lands in the Sirkar country and in the superintendance of which they become dependant on the Sirkar.

4. A great proportion of the Sirkar lands is rented by the Poligars and they engage for them on the same terms, and are subject to the same conditions as the Sirkar inhabitants.

5. The Poligars have purchased lands from the Sirkar inhabitants, and cultivate them on the same terms and pay the accustomed taxes to the Sirkar.

6. The Tullum Cawel (or village watching) is also in the hands of several of the Poligars;

but it is an office separate and distinct from the Desha Cawel and considered dependant on the Sirkar.

This is an institution of a more ancient (1499) date than that of the Desha Cawel. It was in the hands of certain petty Chieftains who under the Gentoo Government were numerous and powerful and committed robberies, murders and other abuses. The Government unable of itself to restrain them, instituted the Desha Cawel (District Watching) to counteract them, and granted certain fees and emoluments and gave it to other superior Chieftains or Poligars and by that means checked the exorbitant depredations of the Tullum Cawel Carrahs.

The Tullum Cawel Carrahs pay a proportion of their emoluments as a tax to the Sirkar, another part thereof to the Poligars of the Desha Cawel, and submit themselves upon the remainder. In case they ever abscond for any crime, the Desha Cawel Poligars are answerable to the Sirkar for their persons.

Both these institutions, as I before observed (1500) in several instances are in the hands of the same person and is thus accounted for. At the institution of the Desha Cawel some of the petty Chieftains or Poligars to whom it was committed were related to some of those who held the Tullum Cawel and in failure of nearer hereditary claimants succeeded also to the possession of the latter.

I have now, Gentlemen, endeavoured to exhibit as clearly as I am able the relative situation in which the Poligars stand towards the Sirkar. It appears to me, that it has not been generally understood, that they were connected in any other manner than that of watchers for which they collected fees for services to be performed and responsibility annexed to the office; and upon this Idea it may have been thought practicable that the Evils which arose from allowing the Poligars to make the collections themselves of their fees, could have been remedied by prohibiting them (1501)

them from collecting them and giving them credit for the amount in their Peshcush.

Admitting that this plan was carried into effect, and the Poligars relieved from their watching and responsibility for losses, They would still continue from their relative situation connected and dependant on the Sirkar; and while their connection with it (in the several instances recited) is permitted to subsist, and I know not how it is to be dissolved, while the administration of the province is divided, the Government of the Poligars must continue to be a succession of acts flowing from different sources, excluding the possibility of system or regularity.

These contradictions consequently occasioned the greatest difficulty in setting disputes between the Sirkar and Poligars, for the latter, altho' sensible that they are in many instances subjects of the Sirkar, they nevertheless (1501) (from paying their peeshkush to our Government) act as if they were altogether independant of the former. It is difficult to reconcile the idea that a Government so manifestly at variance with every principle upon what it ought to be, should continue to perform its functions; but untill the Poligars acknowledge one power, and be subject to one Government it will be impossible to attempt any plan for the internal management of their country.

The character which has been drawn of the Poligars and the accounts of their former depredations I believe to be exact and not in any degree exaggerated, but experience has convinced me that they continued barbarous and uncivilized by the vice of a Government whose authority fluctuated between despotism and fear.

To elucidate what I have advanced I shall briefly exhibit the situation of the Poligars (1503) when under the Nabob's Government.

A stipulated peishcush was settled by the Nabob's Manager with the Poligars, which amount his Sirkar was credited for on its receipt. An additional Nazzer not proportioned to the ability of the Poligar, but to the exigency of the occasion, or the avarice of the manager was demanded on his own private account. In case of non compliance or

failure, some pretext was speedily brought forward against the disobedient Poligar, and the Sirkar troops, if competent to it (and if not the more powerful Poligars) were employed to reduce him to compliance; in the course of which service, every species of enormity and pillage was committed in his potlam.

To a-said a repetition of so great a calamity, the Poligar was under the necessity of borrowing money from (1504) soucars and merchants at a most exorbitant interest exceeding on some occasions 100 per cent; for the payment of which the Pollam was mortgaged to the Creditor who exercised the whole power of managing the revenues of it and the Poligar was reduced to the state of a pensioner.

The manager at other times instigated the more powerful Poligars to proceed against the minor ones and shared with the former in the spoils they made on these occasions, and the Sirkar countries were equally the scenes of these depredations, the manager being bribed in proportion to the amount that was plundered from the inhabitants.

These acts were immediately represented to the Durbar, and promulgated abroad as proceeding from the unrestrained and licentious character of the Poligars, while the (1505) main spring and mover of these works remained concealed, and out of sight.

From such a pernicious system originated all the evils and mischiefs which have been so universally complained of; The more powerful poligars armed their adherants for the sake of plunder which gave them the means of increasing their domains either by usurpation (which they retained by bribing the manager) or by collusive purchases; whilst the minor ones were compelled to keep up bodies of armed men to resist as far as they were able these depredatory attacks.

Naturally inclined to such warfare and the Government rather encouraging than repressing it, It became the policy of the Poligars to discourage industry amongst their subjects and to

habituate them to warfare by holding out the allurements (1506) of plunder and they naturally contracted an aversion for the pleasures of civilized life; to this may in a great degree be ascribed that readiness to quarrel with each other on the most trivial occasions, and their resistance sometimes to the authority of Government from which they could have had nothing to hope.

Such was the situation of the Poligars when under the Nabob's authority which eventually inspired terror or contempt; but since they have paid their peishcush to the Company, and been relieved from the extortions of the Nabob's Managers, they have considered themselves emancipated altogether from His Highness's Control and subjected to a Government who holds the sword ready to punish those who may be refractory or resist its orders.

The necessary examples that have been made during the present administration (1507) (particularly in the instance of the Poligar of Ramnad) have been attended with the most beneficial effects, and I have only to refer you, Gentlemen, to the records of my Cutcherry, which will exhibit a general conduct on the part of the Poligars very opposite to what they were formerly in the habits of displaying. They have generally manifested a ready acquiescence to all orders, have paid their peishcush with punctuality and but in few instances have committed acts of depredation.

Notwithstanding such is their conduct at this moment, it would be unwise to rely on their present disposition or their supposed preference to our Government, and as the feudal system of bestowing lands for military tenure prevails amongst them, it is highly expedient it should be annihilated and a control established (1508) over them to ensure their fidelity and obedience to the orders of Government.

At the same time that I advance this, I am of opinion that the Poligars are not sufficiently civilised to view the introduction of our authority in the internal management of their countries, without

much repugnance, and that it is a measure which cannot be prudently attempted at once, but must be gradually effected.

It will be a task of some difficulty to prevail on them to admit of any sudden innovation in their feudal system, but as I before observed, it will be highly expedient to annihilate it, and I am imagine no mode more effectual than assessing their lands in proportion to their ability.

This would oblige them to employ their attention towards cultivation, in order to discharge their dues to Government and when (1509) examples were made of those who failed or were not punctual in liquidating them, and they were convinced that punishment was the certain consequence and awaited those who might appear armed, there is every probability they would soon become civilised; their weapons would fall from their hands, and be substituted by the more profitable implements of Husbandry.

To attempt to disarm them by force could not, I think, be prudently adopted, as it might occasion a general revolt, nor do I think it would be practicable, for with the means they have of secreting their arms, all search after them would be in vain. A strict prohibition of their using them, must be the first measures towards it.

The introduction of our system of management and administration of justice (1510) in their Pollams involves many important considerations. As a question, it merits discussion whether it may not be essential not only to the tranquility but to the prosperity of the country that the Poligars retain their influence and management of their Pollams, untill they forfeit them by a failure of engagements or by some act of contumacy or disobedience.

I am humbly of opinion that they should, for notwithstanding their depredatory habits, it is an undoubted fact, that their Pollams in point of culture and population greatly surpass the countries which surround them belonging to the Nabob, and altho' their Government take that of all Hindoo states, is despotic in the most extensive meaning (like)

of the word (the power of the Poligar being only limited by his will), they have the policy to treat their own subjects (comparatively speaking with (1511) lenity and moderation, by which conduct (and owing to the unparalleled oppressions exercised by the Nabob's Manager) their Pollams are full of the Sirkar inhabitants.

The following is an humble attempt at the outlines of a plan for disarming the Poligars and for introducing a regulated administration in the Pollams.

1. Every Poligar who is not totally incapable to be entrusted with the internal management of his Pollam, and an assessment made on his lands in proportion to their ability, and those lands secured to him and to his heirs for ever unless forfeited by misconduct. The assessment once settled should on no account be increased. This would induce him to promote the welfare and happiness of the inhabitants as it would become his interest to render his country as flourishing (1512) as possible.

2. An engagement to be taken from the Poligar for the performance of his stipulated payments in which a clause should be inserted specifying the consequences that would ensue on a failure of discharging his Kists. It might be inserted also that the punctual discharge of his Kists was the tenure by which he held his Pollam.

As the assessment should be settled in proportion to his resources, it is a natural conclusion that when he saw this regulation strictly enforced he would not incur the penalty of forfeiting it.

3. A muchelka to be also entered into by which he should engage himself not to employ upon any pretext whatever a greater number of armed men than he may be allowed for his personal guard, and bind himself to apprehend all persons (1513) who may be found in his Pollam with arms in their hands, and to forfeit his Pollam if he employs force on any pretext whatever against his neighbours or others.

With respect to the administration of justice it is a subject which will require much consideration. The Pollams are so much dispersed that it would be altogether impossible for a Collector to superintend ^(which) he ought to do that, Department General instructions may be laid down for the administering it by the Poligars, and promulgated that an appeal in all cases be laid at the Collectors Cutcherry. In a short time, I am persuaded no act of flagrant oppression or injustice would be committed by a Poligar without finding its way to the Collector's Tribunal.

I do myself the honour to transmit herewith a statement exhibiting (1514) the revenues of the Tennevelly Poligars, the collections from the villages now become their property, and from the villages rented by them from the Sirkar for one year, with the amount peeshcush paid by them to the Company, the surplus carried to their own account and the additional amount recommended to be added to their Peeshcush.

This statement I procured from the Canongoes of the Tennevelly District and I believe it to be tolerably accurate.

You will observe that no addition is recommended in some of the Pollams which is owing to the devastations which were formerly committed in them and it will require some time before they can recover sufficiently to bear an increase of assessment.

I beg leave to state that the information and observations contained in this (1515) letter are more applicable to the Tinnevelly Poligars, than to those in the Trichinopoly and Madura Districts. I expect to obtain soon a similar statement of their resources as the one now sent, which I shall lose no time in transmitting for your information.

I have the honour to be very respectfully,

Gentlemen,

Your most faithful and obedient servant

(Signed) George Powney
Collector

Ramnad
15th January 1796

XIII. 64

MINUTE OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE
ON MR. GEORGE POWNEY'S LETTER
DATED 15TH JANUARY 1796

The Board wait Mr. Powney's promised statement of the resources of the Trichinopoly and Madura Poligars. Meanwhile, they judge it necessary to call his attention to some remarks on his report upon the Tinnevely Tributaries having in view the arrangement proposed by Marquis Cornwallis of precluding the necessity of the Poligars entering into the Sirkar lands or having any interference with them, or the inhabitants of them as Pallum Cavel Caras and Deshacavel Caras, upon which Mr. Powney has not afforded any decided opinion.

It would appear that to exclude the Poligars from all allowed concern in the Circar lands, as watchers, no more is necessary than to relieve those Pallum Cavel Caras, who have fallen under their influence from that state of subjection which has been imposed upon (1518) them, and to continue them in the exclusive possession of their offices, privileges and rights; in such case the interference of the Poligars in the Circar lands as watchers would be thus put a stop to and the original watching duty revert to its former establishment.

In respect to the collection of the Desha Cawal, it seems to the Board if the Company were to order the discontinuance of this collection by or for the Poligars, that it would, only add to the receipts of His Highness's Managers, if the Poligars are deprived of it, Government will be under the necessity the more heavily to assess their lands, and considering the great change they are to experience, the comparative limited authority they will under their new masters possess, their means of oppression, and repine, (1519) cut off, and of course their usual income affected, it cannot be good policy to make them all at once feel that by the change they must sacrifice entirely, what they have heretofore considered their most profitable rights, If therefore from motives of policy it should be admitted, and considered a part of their revenue, on which the future assessment is to be formed, at the same time that all right of interference on their part must be cut off, it would seem only further necessary that the amount of the Desha Cawal

fees should be collected by the Nabob, added to his Kists and credit given to the Poligar in part of their tribute, as provided for in the arrangement between Marquis Cornwallis and his Highness the late Nabob.

Upon these suggestions, the Board wish to receive Mr. Pawney's opinions and that he would also report (1520) whether, if the interference of the Poligars in the Circar lands, were entirely cut off it is likely to affect their income from lands held therein on favourable rents, or as inhabitants cultivating under the Circar, or any other emoluments exclusive of that arising from the Follum Cauvell and Deshaacavel, and to what extent.

If this should be the case agreed to direct, Mr. Powney to report his opinion whether an arrangement could not be made with the Nabob's Government to secure to them the amount by adding it to the Kists payable by Highness, as proposed to be done (1521) ^(Hui) by the Desha Cawal fees.

The proper revenue of the Poligars, having been defined and supposing their right of interference in the Circar lands cut off as herein suggested, except as inhabitants, in the enjoyment of certain defined privileges, either as Shotrumdars, Enamdars, or cultivators, the principle upon which the additional assessment is to be leveled, remains to be considered.

Waiving the discussion of the motives which actuated Hindoo princes in granting to the Poligars holding under feudal tenures certain privileges for certain services, the Board shall only observe that it has now become a principle with the Company's Government that no military force shall be kept up within their territories, but the troops paid from their treasury, and as the Poligars are no longer to be considered the watchers of (1522) the property of the Circar and inhabitants, nor to be required to furnish peons, nor to be subject to any other military service whatever, it appears just that the additional assessment to be leveled on them should be in proportion to the expense attending those services and establishments heretofore held at the call of the Circar, and to enable Government to keep up such additional force as may appear necessary for the due protection of the country.

The Poligars in general not being possessed of sunned defining the extent of the services required, where these are wanting, their expenditures on that account cannot be accurately ascertained, but it appears a datum sufficiently correct to estimate the amount, by calculating the expense of keeping (1523) up the actual number of peons they are known to maintain.

Agreed to direct Mr. Powney to state, for this purpose, from the best information he can procure, the number of peons actually in each Poligars service, the estimate expense attending their maintenance, whether in land, or money, and what number he thinks will be necessary for the sowaree of each Poligar, to be permitted by Government, on the supposition that the use of arms is to be restricted on every other account.

Agreed further to direct Mr. Powney at the same time, to submit to the Board the draft of a sunned defining the future rights, and privilege of the Poligars, prescribing the number of peons to be kept up, and forbidding (1524) the appearance of armed men in the Poligar villages intermingled with those of the Circar as well as laying down regulations for their administering justice, leaving an appeal open to the Collector and eventually to Government.

Ordered that Mr. Powney be written to accordingly and that he be directed to furnish the required information as soon as possible as well as to extend it to all the Pollams under his superintendance.

MINUTE

Agreed to call the attention of the several Collectors to the Board's letter of the 3rd September wherein they were directed to report when they had completed the Opuntia Plantation, and to transmit a quarterly report of the state thereof as well as of the Cochineal insects under their care.

Agreed further to intimate to the Collectors that if they find any difficulty in procuring the insect in their neighbourhood on application

XIII.65

Read the following letter from the Collector of Guntoor

Edward Saunders, Esq.
President and Members of the
Board of Revenue,
Fort St. George

Gentlemen,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 19th ultimo in answer to mine of the 28th of August enclosing the applications of the Manearow wars for an increase of allowance as they affirm that what they received from me in the Fusly 1204 namely Star Pagodas 5250 has not been sufficient for their expences.

I must acknowledge that I understood the letter of the Board of 29th January 1795 as authorising me to pay the zemindars (7602) according to the ancient Russooms and Sauvarums they received from their respective districts but not such Russooms etc. as they received from the Talooks of others. The latter, I understood, they had resigned to the Chief and Council of Masulipatam but I did not know that they had ever relinquished the former. If this were less than 10 per cent on the net revenue the surplus was to be paid at the option of the Board according to the behaviour of the parties on which account the applications were forwarded under date 28th August. Nor should I have thought myself ~~instead~~ unless by the express orders of ^{h just} the Board in withholding any application from the zemindars especially in the former ^{h of} complaint. With respect to their behaviour it has been as far as has come to my knowledge sufficiently acquiescent. In the orders of the Board (7603) the discharges granted to the inhabitants before related expected and were in that transaction I believe the zemindars meant will tho' their conduct was not justifiable.

Tho' I was clear that the former mode of estimating their Russooms and Sawvarums would fall short on the whole of the 10 per cent on the nett

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revenue which it does by nearly the sum of 1000 Star Pagodas, Yet the former method of reckoning being considerably in favour of the Maniearows it appears by the account now enclosed that they have received near 300 Pagodas each more than the 10 per cent gives them and the Manoorwars about 650 each less as will appear by the account enclosed in which is also inserted the allowances made to the Gondarows in lieu of their Russooms which they professed to accept from the hands of the Company but expected would (7604) be estimated at 10 per cent. The account enclosed appears to me so full that I think the Board can have no difficulty in assigning the sums which they may think proper to give to the zemindars. The surplus given to the Maneezarows may be stopped out of their Russooms in the succeeding Fusly 1205 if the Board judge it proper to retain the whole of the fines as charged them in the present year.

The conduct of Manourwars appears to me to have been altogether unexceptionable.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble servant

(Signed) G. A. Ram
Collector

Guntoor
3rd October 1795