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78.1
REPORT OF THE STATE OF THE DINDIGUL DISTRICT IN THE YEAR FUSLEY 1201

Population:

In treating this head, which from its superior importance appears to claim the first consideration, I shall shew the computed number of inhabitants in the circar lands of the Dindigul district and the manner in which the computation has been formed.

I reckon that the whole number of inhabitants amounts to thirty thousand one hundred and four. (30,104).

The computation is made in the following manner. From my own personal survey I have ascertained the number of (p.2080) of houses, and of the men, women, and children inhabiting each, in the Dindigul Pettah, and in six other villages: Vera Madura, Ariancot, Fabapetty, Balkistnaporam, Verashumdoor, and Chitty Naigperry. The particular detail of the survey is shown in the accompanying statement marked "A". The average amount of inhabitants in these places, is three and a quarter ($3\frac{1}{4}$) to each house, or family. In the rest/the country I have the number of houses /of or families, from the village conicopies, and others whom I employed to take an account of them.

This number being ascertained the next step was to apply the result of the actual survey, or $3\frac{1}{4}$ persons in each family, to the remainder of the country and from thence compute the number of its inhabitants. But in forming a computation of the number of people in any country, from the average number of people in each house of any subdivision of such country, regard must be had to the degree of healthiness of the subdivision. (p 2081)

The cusbah Talook, in which the above survey was made, and the Talooks of Vatalaceondum, and Periacolum, may be reckoned equal in point of healthiness. I therefore compute that in these Talooks, each family contains, at a medium, $3\frac{1}{4}$ persons.

Outampollam is a very unhealthy Talook. I judge therefore, that the number of persons in a family, there ought not to be computed at more than three, on a medium, and have accordingly followed that average in the computation for Outampollam.

The number of families of each particular cast and employment in the whole country will be seen in the accompanying statement marked "B", which also exhibits a comparative view of the population in Fusly 1200, and in Fusly 1201. The nett increase during the latter year, is six hundred and fifty nine (659) inhabitants.

(p 2082) It appears by this comparative statement "B" and by the one marked "C" that Outampollam is the only Talook in which there has been a nett decrease of inhabitants. From the want of a register of births and deaths throughout the district, it is impossible to ascertain what number, out of the people making the nett decrease may have died, and what number may have removed from Outampollam to another Talook, or to another country. But, I believe, that by far the greater portion of the decrease is owing to mortality.

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In the following account of the increase and decrease of the number of families of each particular cast or tribe in the district, I can speak with certainty to those, only, which compose the increase. With regard to the decrease, I am guided by the best information which it is practicable to attain without regular registers. (p 2083)

Under the head of gross increase in the comparative statement "B" there are 37 families of the Banyan tribe in the cusbah Talook. Of these, 34 families having, on the last conquest of Dindigul, fled to the Nattam and the Pollams, returned to the Pettah of this place on cowle sent them by me. The other three families removed from two of the other Talooks to the cusbah to employ (their proper) in cultivation or trade.

The Jonigar tribe consists of a sort of lubby people engaged in trade and possessing cattle which they let out for the purpose of carriage &c. They remove frequently from place to place as good opportunities of trade occur: of the 7 families who quitted Vatalacoolum, 6 went to Periacolum and 1 to trade in other countries.

The 4 families of toddy drawers came from the Peligar countries. (p 2084)

Jungam, or Lingum tribes in Arcot and some other places, persons of this tribe possess considerable property and engage in trade. In Dindigul they subsist merely upon charity.

Of the families of the Gausel tribe, or those who manufacture ornamental rings for the arms, two removed from Vatalacoolum and Periacolum to the cusbah Talook; and 20 to the cusbah and one to Outampollam from Nattam and the Dindigul in consequence of cowle sent to them. / Polla_{ms}

Sixty families of the Cooley tribe removed to the different Pollams because it is sometimes an object with these poor people to benefit themselves by a small difference between the price of certain articles in the circar lands and of these articles in and near the hills, where they are produced in great abundance from the superiority of soil. These are the necessary articles (p 2085) of the plantains, tamarinds, garlic, onions, chillies &c.

Persons of the Colawada or shepherd tribe are employed in taking care of sheep which are either their own, or flocks that they are hired to attend. 5 families of this tribe removed from Outampollam to Periacolum and the Dindigul Pollams. 14 families came from these Pollams for employment in the circar lands.

In the tribe of dancers are included the dancing girls of pagodas and tumblers the latter also frequently work as tank diggers. 6 of these families removed from the Outampollam Talook to the cusbah and Periacolum and 17 families came from the different Pollams of the district.

Twenty families of those who work in brass had fled from Dindigul on the last conquest to Coimbatonum and Mannercoil in Tanjore, to Nattam and Trichinopoly, from whence they returned (p 2086) on cowle.

Of the gold-smiths 6 families have been drawn from Periacolum and Outampollam to the cusbah and Vatalacoolum, principally from the demand for their work occasioned by the establishment of Europeans in the district. The remainder of the 23 and 24 families mentioned in the gross increase, having fled, when Syed Saheb left the district, to Tanjore and returned upon cowle.

Out of the gross increase in the number of families of iron-smiths in the cusbah, 3 came thither from Vatalacoolum, 11 fled when the country was last conquered and 6 from Madura as new settlers.

Of the families of carpenters 26 having fled on the conquest

returned to the cusbah, and Vatalaseendum Talloks on cowle. One family came to the latter Talook, from Outampellam. (p 2087)

20 families of the shoe-maker tribe went to the different Pollans for employment.

Of the Potters, 4 families went from Outampellam and Periacolum to the cusbah and Vatalaseendum; one removed from the district.

Of the 8 families of washermen who removed from Outampellam 3 went to other Talooks and the other 5 are gone from the district.

Of the 16 families of Pariars removed out of Outampellam 14 are gone to Vatalaseendum and the other two out of the country.

Of the Bramins, who live as free inhabitants, 2 families went from Vatalaseendum and 7 from Outampellam to Periacolum. 16 returned on cowle after having fled the country upon the last conquest.

Of the Rajah tribe 2 families removed to Periacolum and 7 went out of the country in search of service. They are generally employed as peons. (p 2088)

The decrease in the number of families of the Velara cast arises almost entirely from deaths at Outampellam.

Of the Gommah tribe four families having fled on the conquest returned to the district on cowle.

Nine families of Gentes also fled about the same time, and returned on cowle.

22 families of Mahomedans went away, on the conquest to Madura, Nottam &c and returned on cowle.

3 families of Bramins died at Outampellam.

7 families of the Velara cast having quitted the district on the conquest came back to it on cowle being sent them.

14 families of the Gommah tribe did the same and returned in the same manner.

As also did 41 families of the Gentes cast.

Of the Jonigar tribe 5 families went away from the district.

Of the Cowkeepers 9 families (p 2089) fled on the conquest and returned on cowle being sent to them.

33 families of Pulley or labourers gone to serve among the Poligars; The number of their ploughing cattle being diminished by deaths. They find a supply of cattle on cheaper terms among the Poligars than among the inhabitants of the circar lands. The reason of which is obvious from the superiority of pasture and consequently greater number of cattle among the hills.

4 families of the Reddy cast went away to the same place and on the same account.

50 families of the Copelin tribe, chiefly employed in agriculture went out of the country on the conquest and returned to it on cowle being sent to them.

5 families of the Dodeer cast returned also on cowle. Most of the Poligars are of this cast. (p 2090)

14 families of the Marawarkcast went to engage themselves as cultivators in the Poligar lands.

Next to the head of population it seems most natural to advert to the means by which they earn their livelihood, and as the majority of them support themselves by work it becomes necessary to show the real value and price of it.

LABOUR

Labouring men employed in agriculture are always hired by the year (except cultivators of inclosed gardens) and the higher established by immemorial usage in the district, for one man is 1 Cullum of dry grain and 1 Colly fanam per month, but, if the employer pay him in the dry grain called Veragee, (of which he may do if thinks of it) the labourer must receive $1\frac{1}{2}$ Cullum; because, Veragee when beat out, produces only 5 Mirgalls for every 12 Mirgalls, (is one Cullum). Even (p 2091) the the labourer be employed on paddy ground, his Cullum is paid, not in paddy, but in dry grain. Should the dry grain crops fail entirely the employer is still obliged to pay him in kind and for that purpose procures grain wherever he can in a neighbouring district, and delivers it to him on the spot where he works.

The culture of what is called garden ground or that in which is planted tobacco and is conducted on a different plan.

The proprietor, who is the possessor of the well from which his ground is watered, by means of a Pekkette, employs labourers and rewards them by giving them two thirds of the crop of tobacco. The other third is reserved for himself. This division of the crop is established by immemorial usage. A proprietor of 5 Koolies of this garden ground, disposes of it in the following manner. By means of 5 labourers (p 2092) he cultivates $\frac{3}{5}$ of the 5 Koolies, with tobacco; the labour of 5 men, and the water of one well, is equal to the culture of three Koolies of tobacco ground and to no more. The other two Koolies therefore, remain fallow till the tobacco shall have been out.

The average produce of 3 Koolies of tobacco is (© 35 Telameach) 105 Telam weight of tobacco. Two thirds of that production (viz 70 Telam) belongs to the 5 labourers. 70 Telam is five bullock load (at the average of 14 Telam per bullock). Tobacco of a good quality is worth in the market, 7 8. Chuckrums per bullock load. At that rate the 5 bullock loads would amount to 35 6. Chuckrums. But the labourer sell it to a merchant @/6. Chuckrums /6 per bullock load because the merchant has already agreed to take the whole quantity of their tobacco @ 1 Chuckrum per bullock load, less than the market price, in consideration of the money which he has advanced them for (p 2093) their support at the commencement of the tobacco cultivation. He advances the money without interest, nominally but really at a high interest as follows. The 5 labourers when they enter on the tobacco cultivation in October and November require an advance of 30 6. Chuckrums among them all, for their support during the four months which the tobacco remains on the ground and for two months after it is out. (©) Having given their joint bond for 30 6. Chuckrums they receive the amount not at once but in four kists viz 7 6. Chuckrums - 5 F upon executing the bond, 7 6. Chuckrums - 5 F a month afterwards, 7 6. Chuckrums - 5 F at the end of the succeeding month and 7 6. Chuckrums - 5 F a month later than that. The merchant therefore advances 30 6. Chuckrums and in 6 months receives it back together with 5 6. Chuckrums more. (His profit by receiving each bullock load at 1 Chuckrum below the market price). So that he gains 5 6. Chuckrums upon 30 6. Chuckrums which is equivalent to 6. Chuckrums 16 - 6 F - 30 6 per cent for six months, or to 2-7-35 per cent per month, (p 2094) not short of 3 per cent. The merchant gets the equivalent of 2-7-35 per month altho he does not advance the whole 30 6. Chuckrums but a fourth part of it only, at first. Consequently, his gain seems to exceed that percentage; and so it really would, if he found always, an immediate sale for the whole of his tobacco; but commonly it remains some-time on hand by which he sustains a loss.

The crop of tobacco being removed from the ground about February the 5 labourers whom they have prepared the land sow the dry grain called Cholam. 5 men, with the water from one well, can cultivate 4 Koolies of Cholam ground and no more. Upon reaping the Cholam they sow Raghee of which latter grain 5 men can cultivate 5 Koolies. But in order to render the crop of a good quality they seldom cultivate more than 4 Koolies. But Cholam and Raghee are divided between them/(2095) the proprietor, in the same way viz, /and 2/3 rd for themselves and 1/3 rd for him.

Whenever the season admits of a considerable increase in the extent of either Nunjah or Punjah cultivation, an additional number of hands being necessary, men are hired as day labourers, at the rate of 6 villages measures of Veragee, or 1 of all other dry grains per day. Women and children about the age of 15 years, are, also, employed at the same work, and for the same rate of hire. Boys of 12 and 7 years of age, frequently accompany their parents to the harvest, and earn, (from the employer of their parents) the elder 5 Mercalls, and the younger 16 Measures, per month for watching and driving away cattle which attempt to feed on the crop.

Women are generally employed as labourers in the fields during the following portions of the year. During the whole of July they are employed in manuring the Punjey ground and that part of the Nunjey ground where (p 2096) the Peshanum, or great crop, isto be sown (the manuring of Peshanum ground, however is generally completed by the beginning of July), with cowdung and three sorts of leaves, called in the Malabar language Glinjehfurry, Avarum Turry and Erecum Turry. During the whole of August they manure the same sort of dry grain land in the same manner, transplant paddy of the Peshanum crop and weed the fields of dry grain.

In September, they are employed in the same manner, and in cutting Gaarga Paddy.

The same employment continues till the 20th of the succeeding October from which till the 20th of the ensuing month of November they have no employment in the fields. From the 20th of November to the 1st of January they are employed in cutting the dry grain. From the 1st January to the 31st of March they are employed in cutting the Peshanum or great crop of paddy.

During the April they have no employment in the fields. In May from the 1st to the 10th they (p 2097) manure the Gaar paddy ground with the leaves beforementioned. From the 10th May till the 20th of the following June they find no employment in the fields. From the 20th of June till the 30th of the same month they bring manure to the dry grain ground.

Women are therefore without employment in the fields about 100 days in the whole year.

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|------------------------------|
| viz from 20th October to 20 November: | 30 days | |
| All April | 30 days | |
| 20 days in May | 20 days | |
| 20 days in June | 20 days | |
| | <u>100</u> | (not employed in the fields) |

During the 100 days, therefore, they get their living, either by making cotton into thread, beating paddy into rice or bringing grass and firewood for sale. By the occupation of thread making, they generally gain the following profit.

The medium price at which (p 2098) they buy the cotton before it is cleaned from its seeds and dirt is 18 Pullums weight (100 Pullums make one Telam. Each Telam is 2400 Pagedas weight) for 1 Colly Fanam. 18 Pullums weight of uncleaned cotton produces, on being cleared from the seeds and dirt 3 1/2 Pullums weight of pure cotton ready for spinning. This proportion is the result of several experiments made before me. There are two sorts of

cotton, one called Copus Sperates or coarser sort, the other Lardum Peratee or finer sort. One woman, if she works hard, can clean and spin no more than one C Fanam/ of cotton in the course of 8 days. /worth Upon which she gains a nett profit when sold of 2 C Fanams if the cotton be of the finer sort and spun into finer thread. If the cotton be of the coarser sort and spun into coarser thread she gains a nett profit of one C Fanam upon one Fanams worth of cotton.

Consequently the finer thread yields her a clear profit of $\frac{1}{2}$ of a C Fanam per day and the coarser thread of $\frac{1}{4}$ of a C Fanam (p 2099) per day.

By bringing firewood into the Pettah of Dindigul or to the Cusbah (ie principal town) of the other Talooks, a woman gains about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a C.Fanam per day. A child by bringing the same article to the same places gains about $\frac{1}{8}$ of a C Fanam per day. But by the carriage of firewood any where except to the Pettah or the above cusbahs, a woman can only get $\frac{1}{8}$ C Fanam, a child can only get 1/16 C fanam.

A similar profit can be gained by women and children bringing grass for sale and the same difference of profit prevails between the carriage of grass to the Pettah and to other places.

The lower classes of women in the Dindigul Pettah always find employment in beating paddy into rice; there being a constant supply of that grain for the consumption of the place. In the rest of the Cusbah Talook however, very few persons of (p 2100) any description whatsoever can be employed in the same way, the cusbah being, almost entirely, a dry grain country, and its consumption almost entirely in dry grain.

In the Pettah a woman's hire for beating out 6 Mercalls of paddy is 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ Dindigul Measures of rice. But if she be employed by a merchant to beat out paddy which he intends for sale and not for his own consumption, her hire is one Dindigul Measure of rice only, for every 6 Mercalls of paddy, because rice for sale is not so thoroughly beaten, as that for immediate consumption. But neither the 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ M nor the 1 Measure are clear profit, as will be shown in the sequel. (see statement).

From what has been already stated regarding the nature of payment for labour, according to the old custom of the country, the wisdom of that custom is very apparent; for, the labourer, being entitled to as much of his hire in kind, as is fully (p 2101) adequate to his support (let the crops be plentiful or scarce) he is always sure of a subsistence except in years of great famine which involves him, and his employer, in one common calamity.

Having shown the rates of labour, it becomes necessary to state what quantity of the necessaries articles and conveniences of life these rates can procure, thereby exhibiting the actual condition of the common people, who compose so large a majority of the whole population. This will be shown by the accompanying statement of price of labour and means of living, &c marked "D".

SEED TIMES AND HARVESTS: with the work usually performed in each month of the year.

Ady or July: In this month are generally sown the dry grains called Chelum, Comboo, Veragee, Raghee, Kochey, Cottanootee and Tovera. These should be carefully weeded a month hence. (p 2102) Turneric is also sown in this month and generally sugar cane. Paddy ground having been ploughed and well manured with the dung of cattle and certain leaves and again ploughed several times is fit to receive the seeds of the Peshamun, which are accordingly sown. They consist of the following sorts Viz Sumbah, Venjynarain Sumbah, Poentally and Pooldy. The last sort, which grows in no part of the district but Outrapollam, is never transplanted.

In this month the repairs of tanks, water courses, banks of rivers &c began in April and continued through May and June, are completed.

AVANCEY OF AUGUST:

28.2

REPORT ON BIRDIGUL FOR FUELEY 1201 : dated 20.1.1794 (2nd part)

TAXES

Taxes are levied on (i) houses, (ii) shops (p 2124), (iii) Oil-mills, (iv) Manium, (v) Fishermen,/(vi) Grasing Cattle. /and

The house tax is levied at the rate of from one to three Colly Fanams a year according to the size of the house which pays. Houses of every description throughout the country except those inhabited by weavers, are subject to the above taxation.

Every large shop pays a tax of half a Colly Fanam per month and every small shop pays one quarter of a Colly Fanam per month.

Each Oil Mill pays from thirty to forty Colly Fanams per year.

Manium: Certain people such as village conicoopies, carpenters, iron smiths, water drawers &c holding Manium land pay a tax according to a fixed sum per annum. The sum depends on the Mamool of the country and varies in different places.

Fishermen: This tax may rather be called a rent paid by certain persons for the exclusive liberty of (p 2125) fishing in different tanks belonging to Government for their own benefit. The amount of the rent, which is annual, depends upon the nature of the tank or lake. These waters are rented in dry years only; when they are so low that they cannot be drawn off for purposes of cultivation and a large quantity of fish becomes at once the prey of the renter.

Grasing cattle: A tax paid by shepherds only, for permission to let their sheep feed on particular spots of the Government grass lands. The rate is fixed at thirty or forty Colly Fanams a year for one thousand sheep.

COMMERCE

Exports

| | GGhks | GGhks |
|---|------------|-----------------|
| In Cloths manufactured in the Cusbah Talook the amount annually exported is | 1,150 | |
| " " in Periacolam | <u>250</u> | 1,400 |
| Annual export to Trichenopoly, Madura, Tinnevelly &c, about 1696 Cullams of Horsegram, which at an estimated price at 15 CFanams per Cullam the medium price in the district, is | | 2,544 |
| (p 2126) Annual export to above places and to Tanjore, Daraporam and Palghautcherry, about 17,289 Palams weight of tobacco- which at 6 CFanam at the medium price in the district, is | | <u>10,373-4</u> |
| | Total | <u>14,317-4</u> |
| (vide statement marked "F" and "G" for whole quantity produced vide statement "H") | | |

Imports

| | | |
|--|------------|--------------|
| From Tanjore: | | |
| Women's cloths at the price of 3 to 10 Ghks each | 500 | |
| Chollies from 2 to 15 Fanams | 100 | |
| Men's cloths with silk borders from 3 to 16 Ghks | <u>250</u> | 850 |
| From Madura, Trichenopoly and Madras: | | |
| Shawls and scarlet cloths and at the price mentioned in statement "F" | | 900 |
| From Cochin: | | |
| 1000 Palams of beetle nut valued at 16½ per Tolum is | | 1,662-5 |
| 100 Palams of pepper brought by way of Palghautcherry valued at 44½ Fanams per Tolum | | <u>442-5</u> |
| | Total | <u>3,855</u> |

(p 2127)

Manufactures

The statement marked "F" will show the quantity, description and prices of cloths manufactured in the Cusbah Talook and Alloor.

The statement marked "G" will show the quantity, description and prices of cloths manufactured in the rest of the district.

The total price is: 4,950
 The whole value of cloths manufactured and consumed
 in the district is about 3,540

QUANTITY OF LAND AND COMPARATIVE STATE OF CULTIVATION

The total quantity of land and comparative state of cultivation will be shown by the accompanying statement marked "I".

In this statement the two first columns show the number of cultivated and uncultivated Chey in the circar lands including both Nunjeh and Punjeh ground. Their totals are composed of the number of Chey in column (7) or 'circar lands' column (3). Perumback shows the number of Chey in waste land (p 2128), that is, woods, rocky ground, and swamps that never can be cultivated. This must be distinguished from the waste or uncultivated Chey of the circar lands, which latter are supposed capable of cultivation, provided there were a sufficiency of inhabitants for that purpose. But the land where there are woods, rocks and swamps are supposed incapable of cultivation in any case. Here it is proposed to show another difference viz, under the head of Perumback column () in this statement, mention is made of ground occupied by tanks, yarries &c. In the statement marked "B" comparative of the population and c in Fuslies 1200 and 1201, a certain number of Chey are mentioned as being occupied by tanks. But the latter are totally distinct from the former being the tanks used in cultivation and for the accommodation of travellers. Column (9) shows the gross and nett increases in the cultivation of ground (in Fusley 1201 above what it was in Fusley 1200. Column () shows the quantity of cultivated and uncultivated (p 2129) Manium or free gift lands in the district. Column (12) shows the same, in Fusley 1201. Column (13) shows the gross and the nett increase in the cultivation of these lands in Fusley 1201. Column (14) shows the cultivated and uncultivated lands belonging to pagodas. Column (16) the gross and nett increase of cultivation in these lands in Fusley 1201. Column (20) shows the gross and nett increase in lands granted to Fakeers in Fusley 1201. Column (23) the land held in Enam by a Mahomedan.

The total quantity of land in the district inclusive of Poligar lands is two lac one thousand six hundred and eight $\frac{1}{2}$ Koolies (2,01,608 $\frac{1}{2}$). (Each Kooly is a square of 150 English feet on a side, viz 5,637 $\frac{1}{2}$ Chey of Nunjeh ground (on the average between 4 Koolies and 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ Koolies per Chey) is Koolies 18,321 $\frac{1}{2}$. 45,821 $\frac{1}{2}$ Chey of Punjeh ground (at 4 Koolies per Chey) is 1,83,286 $\frac{1}{2}$ Koolies. Of the latter number of Koolies (1,967 $\frac{1}{2}$ Chey or Koolies 7,871) is contained in the comparative statement of population &c marked "B" under the heads of tanks and gardens. The remainder (p 2130) is contained in the present statement "I". ©

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concluding
part.

©
RATES AND RULES OF ASSESSMENT OR DIVISION OF THE CROPS BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT AND THE INHABITANTS

These will be seen in statements accompanying, marked "X" and "Y".

In the cusbah Talook and the (p 2130) Talooks of Periacolum and Ottampollum the division of the crops is correctly ascertained from the old register and accounts actually found in those Talooks. The division in Vatalacoondum is extremely high in favor of the inhabitants and against the Government. It greatly exceeds the rate in all the other Talooks. I have therefore remarked upon it separately under the accompanying head of "Suggestions" at the end of the report.

28.3

9

EXPENSE OF SIBBENDY PEONS &c WITH THE PROPORTION IT BEARS TO THE REVENUE

The Board of Revenue direct that the expense of Sibbendy &c kept up by each renter should be compared with the revenue, but the country being in Aumanic, the direction cannot be exactly complied with. The following however is the proportion which the servants, Sibbendy peons &c bear to the gross revenue.

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Poligars, collected | CCHks | 72,010- 3 1/16 |
| Circular Lands | | <u>51,652- 8 1/2</u> |
| | | 1,23,663- |
| | at 17 1/2 Fanams is: SP | 70,671-20-13 |
| Expense of Sibbendy | | <u>9,021-17-44</u> |
| | SP | <u>61,650- 7-44</u> |

(p 2132)

Extra charges collection consist of the charge for bullock hire in bringing the paddy from different parts of the district to the pettah of Dindigul. The rate of the above hire is as follows:

| <u>For a full load of 2 1/2 Cullums of paddy</u> | Mercals | Percentage |
|--|---------|------------|
| To Dindigul from Attoor (about 12 miles) | 1 1/2 | 5% |
| To Dindigul from Vatalacendur (abt 25 miles) | 3 | 10% |
| To Dindigul from Gungaiputty (abt 30 miles) | 3 1/2 | 11 1/2% |
| To Dindigul from Periacolum (abt 50 miles) | 6 | 20% |
| To Dindigul from Stampellum (abt 90 miles) | 12 | 40% |

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

In every instance when I have had occasion to refer to the code of Hindoo laws (as translated by Mr H.H. Halhed) I have found that they agree with the laws and customs of this district. It may be rather said that the above code has been the origin from whence these customs have sprung.

In all intricate cases however I have generally referred the parties, who have come (p 2133) before me to arbitrators appointed by each and the report of these arbitrators is the ground of the decision provided no particular objection occurs.

The district being narrow and of a great length, inhabitants in Outampollum, at the extremity of it are naturally more exposed to the malpractices and injustices of particular people than those who live near to the cusbah of Dindigul, the collector's general place of residence.

Were any glaring injustice committed there, the aggrieved party would either come, or send one of his relations, to Dindigul with his complaint. With regard to lesser grievances, should they not be redressed by the Monigars of the Talook, any person may send his Gadjan representation by means of Topekhanna peons stationed at the cusbahs of each Talook, as a sort of Tappal, for the conveyance of these and other Gadjans. This is known to all the inhabitants of the Talooks, and that any peon refusing to receive their Gadjan would be punished.

The majority Monigar has no (p 2134) power to impose a fine or otherwise punish an inhabitant except by confining him for being guilty of actual violence or detaining him as a debtor, of which he sends no immediate notice in writing with the signature also of the accusing party. The examination of every cause, is referred, by the Monigar, to arbitrators chosen equally by each party. The opinion of the arbitrators and signatures of each party, are transmitted to me by the tappal which comes from Outampollam in 1 1/2 (?) days. And my decision upon the whole is transmitted by the same tappal (of peons) to the Monigar; who exacts the amount of the fine &c directed by me; with the attestation of the arbitrators and parties that no more than such a specific sum has been exacted.

I make use of the above method in preference to the appointment of fixed persons in such place for the administrations of justice because the latter description of persons would be continually fomenting (or) creating disputes among the inhabitants to increase their own consequence and profits. This would (p 2135) be the case unless such officers were respectable natives with considerable fixed salaries. At present the best mode of coming at abuses is by private enquiry and a circuit among the principal places as often as may be convenient. The natives are ready enough to complain, and will always seek redress by personal application to the collector when he is not far from them. The establishment of the native courts of judicature would prove of great utility to the country and of much conveniency and ease to the collector.

ACCOUNT OF SOME FRAUDS AND ABUSES PRACTICED WHILE THE GRAIN IS GROWING AND OF ILLEGAL EXACTIONS

During the cultivation of the Pochanum crop two sorts of paddy are sometimes sowed and transplanted in one field; that is in one spot of ground not divided by little banks. One of the sorts (Poombally) which perhaps occupies half the field is fit for reaping 20 days before the Shumba which occupies the other half of the field. The cultivators having reaped the Poombally under the inspection of the (p 2136) Monigars people, they form their plan for defrauding them in the following manner. The Monigar people having seen the Poombally reaped go to their own homes and return to the field as soon as the Shumba is ripe. Two or three nights previous to their return the cultivators assemble with their cattle, cut down a narrow slip, of Shumba paddy from that side of it which had been next to the Poombally, and drive their cattle backward and forwards over the spot first cut by which means it has the appearance of ground from which the Poombally was removed 20 days before. Should this trick be discovered by the Monigar's people, the Government is usually, as much defrauded as if the discovery had not been made: for it generally happens that the cultivators bribe the Monigar's people with part of the stolen produce.

The Cowcolgars people also have an opportunity of stealing paddy in the following manner. Being entitled from their employment to go near the paddy at night they (p 2137) embesgle a certain quantity by plucking up single stalks here and there. Thus the diminution is not perceptible in the mornings: should the any paddy be lodged by water or the violence of the wind they spread a cloth underneath its ears; when, by shaking them or striking them gently the ripest grains fall from the ears into the cloth.

It was the custom, originating from a corrupt practice in Tippec's monigars, to exact from the inhabitants the following sums.

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| At the Dussorah Feast | 250 |
| At the Punheny | 250 |
| And under pretence of fines | CCks300 |

It having been discovered that sums had been received on their account by Monigars they were punished by fine; and the inhabitants warned that nothing was to be paid by them on any other account than the established dues of the circar stated in the cowle given to them.

ACCOUNT OF THE PRINCIPAL RIVERS OR BROOKS

A river named Villashinnadah rises (p 2138) among the hills to the westward of Outampollan near the southern extremity of the Dindigul valley passing through the Pollam of Guntup Naig it flows within four miles north of the cusbah of Periacolum and 3 miles south east of the cusbah of Vatalacoendum. From thence turning more to the eastward it runs towards the Madura country. In favourable seasons the water generally comes into it in August

and remains till the end of December. The source of it I conceive is supplied in a great degree by the rains on the Malabar coast. It is said that among the hills not far from the south of this river, there is a large body of earth and stones, which, obstructing the course of the water throws off about two thirds of the whole body of water into the Travancore hills. It is said that the removal of the earth and stones abovementioned would produce the natural and apparently just division or distribution of the water, as one half would then flow into Travancore the other half into this and Madura district. The expence of removing this obstruction-acle is estimated (p 2139) at about 30,000 Pagodas, a sum which would soon be repaid by the increased cultivation occasioned by the additional quantity of water flowing into this branch of the river. The estimate and survey of the spot were made by order of Mortul Nella Pilla late minister of the Ramnad district. Before entering on such a step as that of drawing away any part of the water it would seem necessary to enquire in what manner the other branch of the river flowed into the Travancore, whether it may be lost among its hills or supply the cultivation on the plains.

Another river, or rather break takes its rise among the hills west of Periacolum, runs close by the cusbah town of that Talook, passes the villages of Melamungelum Tamara Colun, Melamungelum and falls into the first mentioned river, the Vellashinnadah, near Boolaperam.

A third river has its source at a water fall of 250 feet in height among the hills southwards to the south west of Vatalagunta, flows by Gungevarpetty and the cusbah town of Vatalagunta (p 2140) and falls into the Vellashinnadah 3 miles to the south east of it.

Water continues in the two last mentioned rivers nearly at the same period with the water in the Vellashinnadah, from August to December.

POLIGARS

The number and names of the Poligars belonging to the Dindigul district will be seen in the accompanying paper marked "B" as also, the tribute which they pay to Government.

Tippoo Sultan, not long after the peace of 1764 between the Company and him, drove all these Poligars from their Pollams, except four, whom he allowed to remain. These four were Appaji Coundum, Koombarree, Yerracotta, and Yerracua. The reason commonly alledged for Tippoo's exception of these from the general dismissal, is, that on his arrival in the district they came to visit him while the others did not.

The whole of the Poligars are a ferocious uncivilized people and the head Poligars themselves totally ignorant of every thing. Their ministers (p 2141) are the persons who conduct the affairs of their Pollams, and in strict justice should be the persons punished for any ill conduct.

An instance occurred of a most daring outrage, this year, committed by the minister of Vecapaletu, a clever, bold, and enterprising man; a number of armed peons by his order plundered several villages in Tippoo's country (Baraperam), took garrisoned and kept possession of a small fort, there for a considerable time. The whole of his conduct upon the occasion together with my subsequent seizure of his person, and the security given for future good conduct on his release from confinement, will appear in the correspondence which took place on the subject already before the Board of Revenue. A voluminous reference to the proceedings, I presume to be unnecessary. My letter to the Board of Revenue regarding his seizure is dated 13th November 1792.

Gopia Naigus is generally a very refractory and troublesome

man. Indeed the most (p 2142) so of any of the Poligars, frequently molesting his neighbours and the people of the circar lands. Many of these landholders are connected with each other, by collateral marriages, which prove the cause of many disputes, and violences among themselves. The only way by which the Poligars of the district can be well governed, is to have a military force of nearly a battalion of regular sepoys, with one or two field pieces ready to mount against any of them, who prove disobedient and it is of the utmost consequence (in order to effect this object) that they should know that such a force is always ready to move and act against the refractory. I have said nearly a battalion of sepoys but the fact is that the greater the military force stationed in the Dindigul fort, and district, the better will these people behave and their good behaviour is a matter of the first importance, as several of them border on Tippee's frontier. The instance of Verapatchee's behaviour, above given, is sufficient to evince the truth of (p 2143) the remark.

Tippee always stationed in Dindigul near 5,000 regular cavalry, and several thousand infantry. The revenues of Baraperam were generally applied with those of Dindigul to defray the expence of this establishment of Tippee's.

Tippee's principal reason however for having so large a body of cavalry here was, I presume, on account of this being a good country for the cultivation of gram.

The Poligars being divested of their lands, amildars were appointed in each Pollam, and the soil being remarkably fertile near the hills, a great revenue was drawn from each Pollam.

In May 1792 a large balance of Poligar Peshcush had accumulated owing to the refractory disposition of the Poligars from their being impressed with an idea that Tippee might again obtain possession of Dindigul. No means but coercion, or the appearance of it, could recover the arrear. In June, therefore, I went among the hills, with a force of sepoys and a field piece, under an European officer and proceeding to almost every Pollam, or its neighbourhood recovered (p 2144) nearly the whole arrear as per memorandum of particulars accompanying marked "2". The total perhaps might have been recovered but I was apprehensive of a longer stay in the bad air of the hills. Most of the catcherry people, and many of the military having been sent away from the party with very bad hill fevers, which proved fatal to some of the sepoys.

With regard to the manner in which these people treat the inhabitants of their respective Pollams, it is very arbitrary. Their punishments are severe. Most of the Poligars governing by their ministers, who hold their office, by the precarious tenure of the Poligar's will have established a bad government in the Pollams. /ir The minister lates for himself yet, as in most countries in the East where the proprietor is his own manager. The Pollam of one of these Poligars, who manages it himself, is in a most flourishing condition. It is the small Pollam Jagody, the Poligar of which pays his Peshcush thro the medium of the Pulney Poligar. The Jagody man by his wise administration, has made his country a perfect garden. He is a man of an advanced age and (p 2145) uncle of the Pulney Poligar. These two relations are generally at variance. The Jagody man is desirous of being freed from his dependence on Pulney by being allowed to pay his Peshcush (about 1000 Chucker me) directly to the Company. But, as the Pulney Poligar is his next neighbour, and very powerful such a change, by irritating him, would perhaps induce him to acts of secret revenge. It is very difficult to obtain any account, at all accurate, of the internal state of the Pollams, as to revenue. For, persons sent into them privately, for intelligence of their produce &c would probably be murdered. The manner in which Poligars should be governed does not appear to be accurately defined any where. As landholders paying an annual tribute, they ought while not refractory, to have the management of their country, and administration of justice among

its inhabitants. At the same time it is a question how far and to what extent Government ought to admit of their judicial authority in their Pollams; In the event of a Poligar, for instance putting his minister, or other person to death ? or confining him in such a way as induces presumptive proof of his intention to destroy him ? (p 2146)

The rudeness and barbarism of them, and their people would be much lessened by more frequent intercourse with the inhabitants at the cusbah, or other principal places of the circar lands. A Poligar might come from his Pollam, at least once a year, to the cusbah, without detriment to the cultivation of his country. By the intercourse, consequent to such visits, the Poligar becomes habituated to more civilized modes of life. He sees people living securely upon the fruits of their own industry. Yet, even allowing that the Poligars ignorance and barbarous ideas are so confirmed by age and habit, as to yield no good impression from what he sees; still, his sons, and other persons dependent on him, and who would partake in his journey, would be struck with what they saw, and retain notions that must prove favorable to the civilization and prosperity of the Pollam.

A reward given, publicly, to the Jagoody Poligar for the superior condition to which his own administration has brought his Pollam would prove a powerful incitement to the rest of the other Poligars to follow his example. (p 2147) This reward should be pecuniary not honorary. The latter would possibly, be a source of jealousy with the Pulney Poligars; for there is a sort of rank among these people, and an honorary distinction (such as a dress &c) would lead, the vain, ostentatious Pulney Poligar into an idea that Government wished to augment the consequence of Jagoody.

A small sum (about 100 Chuckrams) would sufficiently denote the the approbation of Government on this occasion.

SUGGESTIONS

A progressive increase of population is the surest basis of the country's prosperity. This increase depends, chiefly if not entirely, on the proportion which the price of labour bears to the price of the necessaries of life. The labour of a man and his wife ought to procure an ample supply of the necessaries of life for themselves and their child till it arrives at the age of 8 or ten years when the parents would be relieved of the expence of supporting it because at that age the child can earn $\frac{1}{2}$ of a C Panam per day, a sufficiency for its own support. In Dindigul no labouring man or woman can procure, by the value of their labour, a supply of the necessary articles of life. Consequently a very large (cultivators of tobacco should be excepted) majority (p 2148) of the whole people of the district are not properly supplied with them.

Every thing which has, a tendency, even the remotest tendency, to raise or keep up, the price of the first necessary of life, grain, beyond a certain relative proportion between that article and the local price of labour, must have a hurtful influence on population. Upon this principle, therefore the commission to collectors, that is, their gain upon the nett money revenue of a country, (a gain increasing in proportion to the increase of such revenue) appears to be an injudicious mode of allowance because it has, as far as it goes, a tendency to raise or keep up the price of grain in order to augment both their own and the Company's immediate profit in money. But allowing that the collector be not actuated by the prospect of so trivial a gain to himself he may be induced to keep grain at the usual and therefore not unjust rate under the idea that his own credit and the Company's interest are intimately connected with it. (p 2149)

It would seem preferable that part of the collector's emolument should be regulated by the actual quantity of grain produced in

his district. This could be always ascertained, whether the country were rented, or under Ausanie management.

As a great part of the labouring men are hired by the year at a fixed rate paid chiefly in dry grain (viz 1 Gallum dry grain and 1 Fanam) it may seem that a labouring man is not affected by the price of paddy (or wet grain). But in fact he is so to a certain degree for the price of the articles he can procure for that Fanam is governed by the price of paddy. When paddy is cheap every thing else will be cheap likewise.

When I say that a large majority of the people are not properly supplied with the necessaries of life, I mean not to infer that they are in a distressed condition. For they are not. All I would assert is, that they have not that ample supply of the necessaries of life which are requisite to promote most completely the increase of population.

WITH REGARD TO THE HEAD OF RATES AND RULES OF ASSESSMENT OR DIVISION OF THE GROVE &c

I must observe that these rates are exceedingly high in favour of the inhabitants of at Vatalacoondum. These rates are taken from the register furnished by the Naat Curums. But none of the old accounts have been formed in this Talook, as they have been in all the other Talooks. It is probable that the Naat Curums have some of them at least concealed in the floors of their houses. Nothing but actual force and seizure of the houses can discover the truth of this. As near two years have elapsed since the peace with Tippec and the inhabitants are firmly reconciled to the Company's Government such a seizure would not now as it might at first, have the effect of alarming the inhabitants and driving them from the country. I would therefore wish to be authorized to make such a seizure.

I have already spoken of the high interest paid by certain labourers for money advanced them by tobacco merchants on their tobacco crops. Yet notwithstanding such deduction from his profits he manages to live well. There seems to be no effectual method (p 2151) of preventing such a pernicious usage, as this mode of advance, is, but by furnishing him with monthly advance, for the time his tobacco is in the ground, from the Company's cash; the amount to be received back at the end of the 4 or 5 months from the time of the first advance. Should the country be rented, the renters may be likewise answerable for the payment of the advance. /re-

The whole amount of the advances would not be very considerable to the Company, and it would very much improve the condition of a considerable number of inhabitants and consequently promote the welfare of the district, and the interests of the Hon'ble Company.

Bindigul
20th January 1794.

Alexander Macleod
Collector

28.4

15

Minute of Board of Revenue on Dindigul: 13.3.1794

The Board defer taking the foregoing letters fully into consideration until the receipt of Mr Macleod's annual report for Fusly 1202, which they trust he will forward with the least possible delay.

The conduct of the Naat Curums of Vatalaccondum, in concealing the old accounts of this (p 2152) Talook is so unwarrantable, that it is agreed to direct Mr Macleod to take immediate steps for securing their persons, warning them that unless they instantly deliver the true accounts they will not only be deprived both of their places and privileges, but punished in an exemplary manner.

The Board are hopeful that the expected report from Mr Macleod will furnish them with more detailed information relative to the revenues of the Pollams, and it is agreed to desire he will forward a particular statement of the names of the several Poligars and their relations &c agreeably to the form transmitted to Mr Landon and entered in Consultations 21st October 1793.

In the audit on Mr Macleod's accounts for the month of October 1793, the Board remarked that very considerable balances appeared due from the several Poligars for Fusly 1202, and it is agreed to desire, should they not have been since discharged, that the summon the Poligars to Dindigul and not permit them to return to their Pollams until the whole of the arrears due by them are liquidated. (p 2153)

Mr Macleod's silence to the audit of the 1st February renders it necessary that the Board should again call upon him to state whether the increase in his charges collection was occasioned by the districts having fallen under Aumatic management, and if in obedience to the orders of the Board the extra charges above the usual establishment have been debited to the new renters on being put in possession of their farms, and it is agreed to desire the collector will immediately transmit to the accountant a list of servants with their monthly pay, which he considers necessary under the renting system.

Resolved that a letter be written to the collector at Dindigul to the foregoing effect.

ICR: 284/68: Pro 13.3.1794: The above is on the report of the collector for Fusly 1200 and 1201. The reports were sent as received in three instalments (owing to bulk and lack of room in tappal) with the collectors letters dated Feb 21, (pp 2078-2122), of Feb 24 (pp 2123-30), and Feb 28 (pp 2130-51). Enclosures mentioned are not entered in the proceedings. (pages 2102-22, and letters enclosing report not typed).