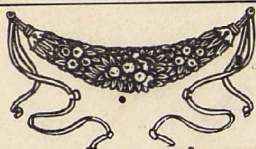


A BRIEF PERSONAL
HISTORY OF THE
RAJAH OF KURUPAM.



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1908.



PERSONAL HISTORY
OF THE
RAJAH OF KURUPAM.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦
PART I.

ANCESTRAL HISTORY.

THE Rajah belongs to the ancient and well-known Vairicherla family of the Vizagapatam District. His ancestors, who enjoyed the hereditary title of Rajahs,* originally bore independent rule over Kurupam, an estate which they appear to have carved out for themselves about 1435 A.D. at the time of the disruption of the Gajapati Kings of Cuttack. The first of the line was Sanyasi Razu, a name still revered in the Estate and in the Hills

* Proceedings of the Circuit Committee, dated 12th September, 1784; Beaufoy's Report on Hill Zamindars; and Grant's Political Survey of the Northern Circars.

adjoining it. His descendant, Sivarama Razu, ruled over Kurupam at the time the English expelled the French from the Northern Circars. He was distinguished for his personal bravery and military prowess. He figured prominently in the eighteenth century warfare with the well-known Sitarama Razu of Vizianagaram. His son, Sanyasi Razu, rendered considerable help to the British in the pacification of the country during the disturbances caused by the insurgent Palaigars after the battle of Padmanabham in 1794. He "conducted himself with much zeal for the (Honourable Company's) service" and by his "influence over the inhabitants helped greatly to accelerate the bringing the country under obedience." Gratified, the Company recognised him as Zamindar and made the Permanent Settlement with him in 1802. The present Rajah Sri Raja

Vairicherla Virabhadra Raz Bahadur Garu is descended from him. He became Zamindar in 1891.

KURUPAM ZAMINDARI.

The Estate, which he has now been managing during the past ten years, is situated in the North-Eastern portion of the Vizagapatam District. It is partly in the plains and partly in the Hills included in the Agency Tracts. Its total area is about 700 square miles. It is an "ancient" Zamindari and is scheduled in Act II of 1904 as inalienable and impartible. Its total revenue from all sources is $1\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs of rupees, besides $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of a lakh which is derived from the Proprietary Estate of Kuppili, Gottipalli, &c., bequeathed to his children by their maternal grandfather the late Maharajah Sir G. N. Gajapati Rao, K.C.I.E. The Rajah pays a total peishcush

(inclusive of land cess) of Rs. 37,848 to Government both for himself and his children. The Rajah attained his majority on 6th September, 1898, and has since then managed the Estate personally, with the aid of an experienced Dewan, who had seen service under his father. Under his direct supervision, the administration of the Zamindari has been gradually modernised. Ryotwari tenure is now taking the place of the old Mustajiri (or farming) system. In 1902 the Rajah personally instituted elaborate enquiries into and settled all Inams in the Estate. He has introduced well irrigation on a large scale and the cultivation of sugar-cane in the Zamindari owes its inception to him. What was hitherto mere waste land has in consequence been brought under the plough. The land revenue has accordingly increased during

the Rajah's management. The demand under the Court of Wards for Fasli 1306 (the last during its period) was Rs. 86,314 ; in Fasli 1313 it rose to Rs. 93,235. The planting of sandal-wood on approved lines is at present engaging his attention. He has invested his savings in the purchase or mortgage of a number of villages adjoining his Estate.

SOCIAL STATUS.

The Rajah is connected by the closest ties with the family of the late Maharajah Sir G. N. Gajapati Rao, K.C.I.E., the well-known philanthropist of Southern India, having married in 1895, his younger daughter Rani Lakshminarasayamma. The Rajah's second son is, under the terms of his will, eventually to succeed to the estates of his maternal grandfather, the late Maharajah, now in the enjoyment

of Lady Gajapati Rao. The Rajah thus represents at present not only his own but also the Goday family to which the late Maharajah, his father-in-law, belonged. The Rajah received his early education under Mr. F. J. Moss, M.A. (Oxon). Rani Lakshminarasayamma died in 1901, but the Rajah has not married again. The Rajah is a member of the European Club at Waltair. In 1903 he was appointed a member of the Newington Advisory Council. In 1905 he was invited by Government to be present at Madras at the public reception of Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, and was accorded a private interview with His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. In the same year he was granted the privilege of private entrée to Government House. On the occasion of the King's birthday in 1906, Government conferred

on him the title of Rajah as a personal distinction. On 27th November, 1906, he was nominated an Additional Member of the Madras Legislative Council, as the representative of the landed aristocracy of the Presidency. On 5th January, 1907, he was made a Member of the Committee for the Management of the Pasteur Institute of Southern India, Coonoor. He is also a Member of the Victoria Technical Institute, and the Central Agricultural Committee, Madras. He has taken interest in the work of the National Indian Association, of which he is a member. He believes in the usefulness of institutions like the Cosmopolitan Club, of which also he is a member, as aids in bringing the Rulers and the ruled into close social relations. The esteem in which he is held by the European and Indian communities at Vizagapatam spontane-

ously manifested itself in the congratulatory addresses that various members of both the communities delivered on the occasion of the presentation of the Viceroy's Sunnud conferring on him the title of Rajah. The Right Rev. Bishop Clerc spoke thus on behalf of the people of Vizagapatam :—

“ I have known the Rajah of Kurupam for many years, in fact before he took into his skilful hands the administration of his estates, and, as a personal friend, I must say that I soon found out in him the sterling qualities of heart and mind which command a high place in society. I am an old resident of Vizagapatam, my country of adoption, in the prosperity of which I congratulate my fellow-citizens on having in their midst such true philanthropists and public benefactors as the Rajah of Kurupam, Sri Maharani Lady Gajapati Rao, and H. H. the Rani Sahib of Wadhwan. For do we not see them vie with each other in generosity to perpetuate the noble traditions of that ‘good and great man’ the ever regretted Maharajah Sir G. N. Gajapati Rao.

We rejoice therefore with the whole Goday family that the Government recognised the personal merits of the young Zamindar who now represents them, and in the eyes of whom, I am sure, the additional title of Rajah means no less an incentive for the future than a gracious acknowledgment of past services."

Mr. R. H. Campbell, the Collector of the District, in presenting the Sunnud, said :—

"The Zamindar is a comparatively young man, who is, so to speak, on the threshold of a public career. He has lived among us for many years past and has been distinguished for his blameless private life, his culture, his extreme courtesy and hospitality to all classes of the community. As an orthodox Hindu, he is the natural leader of the Hindu society of this place and he enjoys at the same time the esteem and regard of the whole European community. Like all the leading Zamindars of the District, he is genuinely loyal to the British Government, and I believe that he is actuated by a sincere desire to do his duty both to the Government, to his ryots and to the public."

On 1st December, 1908, the Rajah was re-appointed an Additional Member of the Madras Legislative Council.

PUBLIC SERVICES.

On the expiry of his term of office on the Newington Advisory Council in 1906, Government expressed their "thanks for his valuable services on the Council." The Rajah has rendered useful service as a Member of the Madras Legislative Council. Among other things, he drew the attention of Government to the inadequate water-supply and medical aid in the Agency tracts of the Ganjam and Vizagapatam Districts, and to the necessity for extending the Vizagapatam Water Works to Waltair. At his suggestion, the Uriyas have been included under the head of "backward classes" for the purposes of the Grant-in-aid Code, a service for which he has been thanked by the President of the Uriya Samaj representing that class in this Presidency. He worked very hard in the interests of the landholders, when

the Estates Land Bill was debated upon in the Council. He has attended all the meetings of the Council since his nomination to it. He has, however, refrained from claiming any travelling allowance for such attendance including that specially sanctioned by Government to Members for attending the Council during the time the Estates Land Bill was under discussion. Government appreciated the "disinterested motives" which induced the Rajah to waive his claim for allowances on these occasions in a special letter to him. Touching on this subject, Lord Amphill expressed himself thus in a private letter to him :—

"The spirit in which you declined the travelling allowance is proof to me that you have a high conception of your duties as a leading nobleman, and that it is a real pleasure to you to render public service."

As a leading Member of the Hindu Community he presided, in June, 1905, over the Vizagapatam District Social Conference, when he pointed out the great necessity there was for reforming various social abuses that had crept into Hindu social life. In March, 1907, he opened the Ellore Cattle Show, where he spoke with approbation of the beneficent agricultural policy of Government.

PUBLIC CHARITIES.

Amongst the Rajah's public charities are :—

(1) A Dispensary at Kurupam, the head-quarters of the Zamindari, opened in 1902, for which he has constructed a building and makes an annual grant of Rs. 500.

(2) A Choultry at Kurupam, primarily

intended for the benefit of in-patients in the Dispensary, established in 1902.

(3) A Primary School at Kurupam.

(4) A gift in perpetuity, made in 1900, of a site on the Waltair beach to the fishermen of Vizagapatam, who were dispossessed of their ancestral homes, on the Vizagapatam beach, by the Municipality, on sanitary grounds.

(5) A Dispensary at Waltair, established in 1901, towards the maintenance of which he pays Rs. 500 annually.

(6) A Public Market at Vizagapatam for which the foundation-stone was laid by Lord Ampthill in February, 1905. The original amount offered by him having been found insufficient, the Rajah has offered to pay the full cost, which will be nearly half-a-lakh. Under the deed of trust, which the Rajah has created, the

income of the Market will be expended, after defraying its incidental charges, in works of public utility.

PERSONAL CHARACTER.

Reference has been made above to the high estimates formed of the Rajah by leading Europeans and Indians. Sir Arthur Havelock, a former Governor of Madras, was in friendly correspondence with him to the end of his life. Lord Ampthill has frequently written to him from his busy English home. The Maharajah of Travancore has a high regard for him. "I am sure," said Lord Ampthill, while still Governor of Madras, "that you will always act with the high sense of public duty which I have admired in you, and I hope that I shall hear some day of your promotion to higher rank in the same way as other good landlords

have been distinguished." When laying the foundation-stone of the Market, already referred to, Lord Ampthill observed:—

Gentlemen, you are all better acquainted with the Zamindar of Kurupam than I am, for he lives in your midst; but I have had the pleasure of meeting him on more than one occasion in Madras, and I am sincerely glad to meet him again in his own part of the country, and to see for myself the evidence of his many beneficent acts, of which of course I have already heard a great deal. The Zamindar has told you the reasons which actuated him, when he decided to incur a very considerable personal expenditure in presenting a market to the town of Vizagapatam; and his own modest statement is far more eloquent than it could be made by any redundancy of words. I shall, therefore, leave it to speak for itself and not spoil it by any unnecessary comments of my own. The Zamindar has been actuated by feelings of loyalty to his Sovereign, devotion to the memory of one who, alas, for all too short a period, was the partner of his life, zeal for the welfare of his fellowmen, and gratitude for the blessings of the

fortune with which he has been endowed and for the benefits of the education which he has received in this town. No higher or more worthy sentiments could grace any man, and they are most practically becoming to a member of the ancient aristocracy of Southern India on whose character and ability the future of the country so largely depends. To me, as Governor of this Presidency, it is, of course, peculiarly gratifying to meet with evidence of loyalty to the Throne and person of our Sovereign, His Majesty the King-Emperor. It is no less pleasing to me, as a man, when I find as I often do find, among my Indian friends, that touch of nature which makes the whole world kin, but we must all stand in silent respect before that allusion to his past domestic happiness, which the Zamindar was pleased to confide to us and which, I am sure, has touched you all as deeply as it has touched me. I am glad to think that it was under the management of the Court of Wards and under the tuition of an Englishman, Mr. F. J. Moss, that the Zamindar laid the foundations of a character for which he is so highly esteemed and admired, and I trust that not only his example but also his personal influence, which he is now in a position to exercise as a member of the Advisory

Committee of the Court of Wards School at Newington, will have a very great effect on the other young Zamindars who will, ere long, be assuming the great responsibilities of managing their own estates. We find in the Zamindar a fortunate combination of the business capacity of his father and the well-known generosity of his father-in-law, the late Sir Gajapati Rao. The gift of this Market is but one instance of the latter, while the provision that the profits of the Market should be managed by a trust and devoted to works of public utility is an excellent example of the former. The townspeople of Vizagapatam will ever have cause to be grateful to the Zamindar for having, by one generous act, turned an insanitary eye-sore into an institution of daily utility, supplying a long-felt need, and, at the same time, improved and beautified one of the busiest parts of the town.

In appreciation of the Rajah's work on the Madras Legislative Council, the Landholders of the Madras Presidency elected him in 1909 to a seat in the Imperial Legislative Council, and there he has

striven to secure the abolition, which has been recently effected, of the Proprietary Village Service Cess in the Madras Presidency.

The Rajah has been the prime mover in the foundation of the Imperial League in the Madras Presidency, and as a staunch loyalist, he has assisted the Government in the suppression of Sedition in Southern India. At the time of the well-known Kotappa Konda riots, the Rajah composed certain tracts entitled "Obedience to Authority," and caused them to be distributed throughout Southern India. In these tracts the Rajah sought to inculcate with all the strength at his command the principle of loyalty to constituted authority in private and public life, appealing now to the glorious Hindu ideal of unswerving loyalty to Parent, Preceptor and King and now to

the necessity and reasonableness of being loyal to the British Throne under which India has enjoyed the inestimable blessings of Peace, Order and Liberty. The publication of these tracts while it had a very wholesome effect on the minds of the people, drew from the Earl of Minto, Viceroy and Governor-General of India, the following commendation. In a letter dated 4th May, 1909, addressed to the Rajah, Lieut.-Col. Sir Dunlop Smith, Private Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy, wrote as follows:—"I am to assure you that the Viceroy thoroughly appreciates the action you have taken to create a healthy public opinion and keep the people straight. Your tract on 'Obedience to Authority' is a most interesting as well as convincing appeal and His Excellency feels that it will do much good. The itinerant preacher also should

be able to do much in the good cause.”

The same occasion drew from Sir Arthur Lawley, Governor of Madras, the following commendation. In a letter dated 2nd May, 1909, addressed to the Rajah, Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell, Private Secretary to the Governor of Madras, wrote thus:—

“I am desired by His Excellency to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter of the 25th April, 1909, and of the copies of the tracts which you are having distributed in the Guntur District. I am to express His Excellency’s high appreciation of the motives by which you are actuated. His Excellency considers the steps you are taking well calculated to promote the preservation of good order and counteract the efforts of those who make it their business to misrepresent the motives and actions of the Government. I am to convey to you His Excellency’s

best wishes for the success of the undertaking”

The assassination of Mr. Ashe, late Collector of Tinnevely, again moved the Rajah to action. On that occasion, he set on foot a scheme, an account of which is published in the Tinnevely District Gazette of the 1st September, 1911, by which he instituted four prizes, open to the citizens of the District in which the murder was committed, to be awarded for the best Essays on “The benefits derived by India from British Rule and the necessity for all the loyal subjects of the British Raj, not only to actively support the Government but also to suggest measures to crush Sedition.” In connection with this scheme, Sir Arthur Lawley, Governor of Madras, to whom the scheme was submitted for approval and sanction, wrote to the Rajah as follows in a letter dated

the 9th August, 1911:—"I am writing to you so that I may tell you for myself how highly I appreciate your desire to support Government and to quench disloyal tendencies and moreover to give practical proof thereof by the scheme outlined in your letter. You may have wondered perhaps that there should have been any delay in replying to that letter. but I have been in correspondence with my officials on the spot in regard to the scheme generally and also in particular regarding the question of publishing the details of the scheme in the Government Gazette to which the Treasury Deputy Collector demurred. Taking this last point first I may say that the too literal reading of the provisions of a Government Order induced the officer concerned to decline your request. But I have asked the Collector to see that if the request is

repeated it may be complied with so far as the advertisement is concerned of the terms of your generous offer. The valuation of the Essays themselves and their publication must I think be undertaken by Mr. Schaffter of the C. M. S. College. Now may I thank you sincerely for having come forward with this scheme which you have taken care to work out carefully. It is characteristic of your public spirit and loyal desire to uphold the cause of law and order in the Presidency, and I am sure that your proposal can result in nothing but good."

There was much competition both among the student population and the general public of the Tinnevelly District for the prizes thus offered by the Rajah and a large number of Essays were written on the subject prescribed in the scheme. These Essays were duly valued

and the successful candidates were awarded prizes at a Meeting held on the Coronation Durbar Day, *i.e.*, 12th December at Tinnevely, by Mr. Francis, Collector of that District. The Rajah also caused these Essays to be printed in a book form and a large number of these books were distributed among the public by the Collector on that occasion. The Rajah sent a copy of these Essays to His Excellency Lord Hardinge, the present Viceroy and Governor-General of India, and received the following reply. Sir J. H. DuBoulay, Private Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy, in a letter dated the 26th February, 1912, addressed to the Rajah, writes as follows:—"The Viceroy desires me to send you his best thanks and to say that he appreciates the efforts you have made by the distribution of your Essays to counteract the bad influences

which have instigated outrages, such as the murder of Mr. Ashe."

His Excellency Sir O. M. Creagh, the present Commander-in-Chief of India, to whom also the Rajah sent a copy of the book, wrote to the Rajah as follows in a letter dated the 17th February, 1912 :—
 "I am very much obliged to you for your letter of the 7th instant, with a copy of the Essays on the 'Benefits of British Rule,' which I have read with much interest. Your choice of a subject for the competition was a happy one, and I am confident that the dissemination of the loyal and patriotic sentiments contained in the Essays cannot but have a generally wholesome result."

The Rajah recently addressed a circular letter to his brother Zamindars of the Madras Presidency, calling for strong

united action on their part in the discharge of their heavy responsibilities to themselves and to their country in general.

In the course of the letter the Rajah says :—“ By birth we occupy the position of natural leaders of the peoples of our country, and it is our sacred duty to do all we can to fit ourselves for discharging, according to the changed conditions of the times, the duties incidental to our position as such leaders. We must move with the times ; and if we fail to equip ourselves for the task, we are sure to be set aside by the progressive classes of the country, to the certain loss of our high position and prestige.....

.....We ought, therefore, to place our influence and wealth at the disposal of our country and intelligently co-operate with the educated classes on the one hand and the rulers on the other

in guiding the destinies of the country to those beneficent ends which the British nation have set before themselves in governing this ancient land.”

With reference to this letter, His Excellency Lord Carmichael, late Governor of Madras, in a letter dated the 14th December, 1911, addressed to the Rajah, writes thus:—“It is most gratifying to find a man in your position taking such a sound and earnest view of duty. I trust that there will be many other landholders who will be guided by your wise counsel. If the landholders all—or the majority of them—in Madras Presidency take the same standpoint as you do in regard to their responsibilities and try to discharge them in the same way, I do not hesitate to say they will be playing a noble and patriotic part, and earning the esteem and gratitude of

all those who wish to see India prosper ; I need hardly add in writing to you that—as I think the gracious words we have heard in the last few days from our beloved Sovereign His Imperial Majesty must have impressed on many—those who do their best in making India prosper are helping not India only, but every part of the wide dominions whose peoples are proud to own the sway of India's Emperor. I trust before long we may again meet and that I may hear from you in greater detail as to what you think I may be able to do to assist you in your good work."

PART II.

SELECT ORIGINAL LETTERS.

D. O. 100.

Confdl. No. 114.

REVENUE SECRETARIAT,

OOTACAMUND,

12th May, 1903.

DEAR SIR,

His Excellency the Governor in Council has resolved to appoint a Committee or Council to advise the Court of Wards in matters relating to the course of training, provided for wards of the Court at Newington Institution. I am directed to enclose, for your information, a copy of the rules that have been drawn up as to the

functions and procedure of the Advisory Council, and to invite you to join the Council. The term of office of Members of the Council will be two years. I am to express the hope of His Excellency the Governor in Council that you will be able to give the Court the advantage of your services and advice.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) N. E. MARJORIBANKS.

To

MEHRBAN-I-DOSTAN VAIRICHARLA
VIRABHADRA RAZU, BAHADUR GARU,
Zamindar of Kurupam.

FORT ST. GEORGE,

No. 654.

MADRAS,

6th November, 1905.

To

MEHRBAN-I-DOSTAN VAIRICHARLA
VIRABHADRA RAZU, BAHADUR GARU,
Zamindar of Kurupam.

MY DEAR SIR,

I am desired by His Excellency the Governor to acquaint you that Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales will visit Madras at the end of January next, and I have the honour of conveying to you the expression of His Excellency's hope that you will be able to be present on the occasion of Their Royal Highnesses' reception.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) M. HAMMICK.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

MADRAS,

4th February, 1906.

MY DEAR ZAMINDAR,

Many thanks for your kind letter of this morning to which, I fear, I can only reply very hastily. It would have given me great pleasure to have a private talk with you before leaving India, but as you very considerably recognise I have unfortunately no time to see any of my friends. It is only by working all day and a great part of the night that I can hope to get through the business which remains to me.

I shall always retain a very pleasant recollection of my acquaintance with you, and I shall hope to hear from time to time of your welfare. I am sure that you will always act with the high sense of public duty which I have admired in you, and I

hope that I shall hear some day of your promotion to higher rank in the same way as other good landlords have been distinguished. You may be sure that I shall not let my successor be ignorant of my great regard for you.

Thanking you for your good wishes which I sincerely reciprocate.

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) AMPHILL.

41, LENOX GARDENS, S. W.

27th July, 1906.

MY DEAR RAJAH,

I am delighted to be able to greet you by that title as it had been my hope to be able to do so before my departure from India. I am now at liberty to tell you that I recommended you for the title of

Rajah last year but the Viceroy was unable to meet my wishes at the moment. It was in anticipation of his being able to do so that I placed your name on the private Entrée list and invited you to Madras for the Royal visit. I am very glad that compliance with my request has only been deferred and I now congratulate you most heartily. I regret, as you do, that I have not had the pleasure of congratulating you in person, but that also is only a pleasure deferred.

Lady Amphill thanks you for your congratulations to her and joins with me in mine.

I should like to write more but I am very busy at present and I shall wait until I hear from you again as I hope to do so.

Believe me,

Yours very truly,

(Signed) AMPHILL.

Confidential.

OOTACAMUND,

26th August, 1906.

DEAR SIR,

The tenure of your office as member of the Newington Advisory Council having expired, I am directed by His Excellency the Governor in Council to convey his thanks for your valuable services on the Council.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) A. G. CARDEW.

To

MEHRBAN-I-DOSTAN VAIRICHARLA
VEERABHADRA RAZU BAHADUR
GARU,

Zamindar of Kurupam.

COCKINGTON COURT,

NR. TORQUAY,

17th September, 1906.

MY DEAR RAJAH OF KURUPAM,

It was a pleasure to me to receive your kind letter of the 16th August, and a gratification to me to know that you retain

a remembrance of me after the lapse of so many years. I have a clear recollection of making your acquaintance in Madras and of your visit to me at Waltair ; and Lady Havelock well remembers receiving the Rani at Madras, and recalls with pleasure the pleasant intercourse between herself and the Rani. I cherish a feeling of regard for your distinguished and enlightened father-in-law, the late Maharajah Sir G. N. Gajapati Rao, and I rejoice to know that his high character and his services were recognized by the Honour of K. C. I. E. conferred upon him. I visited him at Vizagapatam, when I was most graciously and agreeably entertained by him and by his family. My relations with him, with you, and your respective families are remembered with much satisfaction. And, now will you allow me to congratulate you very heartily

on your recent elevation to the high distinction of Rajah. I hope that this is only the forerunner of further honours to come.

I have read, with interest, the pamphlet on your Zamindari which you have been so good as to send me. The kind words spoken of you by my successor, Lord Amphill, which are reproduced in the pamphlet, have served to show me that the promise of good which I saw in you, has been fulfilled.

Lady Havelock and I were in London in June last, and we then had the pleasure of seeing Lord and Lady Amphill and of hearing from them of the welfare of many of our friends in the Madras Presidency. Our mutual friend, Mr. Sim, came to see us.

Lady Havelock, to whom I have shown your letter, desires me to ask you to

convey to the Rani her kind remembrances.

With repeated thanks for your kind thought of me, and with hearty good wishes,

I remain,

My dear Rajah,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) A. G. HAVELOCK.

ABSTRACT.

Directing that the Hon'ble Raja Vairicharla Virabhadra Razu Bahadur, Zamindar of Kurupam, be added to the list of gentlemen who have consented to serve as Members of the Committee for the management of the Pasteur Institute of Southern India, Coonoor, and who have been appointed thereto.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

G. O. No. 14, dated 5th January, 1907.

Read the following paper :—

*G. O. No. 847, Public, dated 28th
November, 1906.*

Abstract :—Directing that the management of the Pasteur Institute of Southern India now, being erected at Coonoor, be vested in a Committee composed of official and non-official gentlemen.

ORDER :—*No. 14, dated January, 1907.*

The Hon'ble Raja Vairicherla Virabhadra Razu Bahadur, Zamindar of Kurupam, will be added to the list in paragraph 2 of G. O. No. 847, Public, dated the 28th November, 1906, of gentlemen who have consented to serve as Members of the Committee for the management of the Pasteur

Institute of Southern India, Coonoor, and who have been appointed thereto.

(True Extract).

(Signed) GALETTI,

for *Chief Secretary*.

To

THE HON'BLE RAJA VAIRICHARLA
VIRABHADRA RAZU, BAHADUR,
Zamindar of Kurupam.

BISHOPSTOWE,

TORQUAY,

15th January, 1907.

MY DEAR RAJAH,

Your letter of the 26th December, 1906, giving me the good news of your appointment to be a Member of the Legislative Council to represent the Zamindars, has just reached me. I beg you to accept from me very hearty congratulations on this distinction. I feel sure you will fill with credit this new and honourable position.

It is very kind of you to express the hope that I may some day think of visiting Madras. I feel confident that my friends there would be glad to see me and would give me a good reception. But, alas, my health is far from good, and I despair of ever being able to undertake the long journey.

I am grateful to you for your offer to render me any service I may need in India. I shall not forget your offer and I shall gladly avail myself of it, should an opportunity present itself.

Lady Havelock joins with me in thanking you for your good wishes for the new year, and in hoping that all happiness and prosperity may attend you.

I remain,

My dear Rajah,

Yours very sincerely,

(Sd.) A. G. HAVELOCK.

MILTON ERNEST HALL,
BEDFORD,

25th March, 1907.

MY DEAR RAJAH,

I have several beautiful objects which I value as tokens of your friendship but thus far I have not had an opportunity of offering you a reciprocal memento.

I am now sending you a tortoise-shell blotter inlaid with silver which I hope you will accept as a small token of my constant and friendly thought of you. You have such a keen appreciation of good workmanship in things artistic that I thought you might like to have a specimen of typical English work of that kind. The blotter is being sent to you by the firm of "Vickery" and I hope that it will reach you safely.

With kind regards from us both,

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) AMPHILL.

DHARAKOTA PALACE,

1st May, 1907.

FROM

THE RAJAH OF DHARAKOTA,

*President, Uriya Samaj,**Ganjam.*

To

THE HON'BLE THE RAJAH OF

KURUPAM,

*Nungumbaukum,**Madras.*

SIR,

In accordance with the resolution of the Association, I have the honor to convey to you the gratitude of the Uriya community of this Presidency for the interest which you have been evincing in the cause of the community in the Council Chambers of the Local Government

and hope you will be pleased to continue your good work for this backward race.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,
RAJAH OF DHARAKOTA,
President, Uriya Samaj,
Ganjam.

R. No. 16.

Govt. of
 Madras.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
 6th March, 1908.

FROM

H. D. TAYLOR, Esq., I.C.S..

Ag. Secretary to the Govt. of Madras,
Legislative Department.

To

THE HON'BLE RAJAH VAIRICHERLA
 VEERABHADRA RAZU, BAHADUR GARU,
Zamindar of Kurupam.

SIR,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 1425, dated 27th February, 1908, and I am to express the appreciation of His Excellency in

Council of the disinterested motives which have induced you to waive your claim for travelling allowances due to you for attendance at the meetings of the Legislative Council.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Sd.) C. A. SOUTER,

for *Acting Secretary to Government.*

79, CADOGAN GARDENS, S.W.,

April 3rd, 1908.

MY DEAR RAJAH,

Just a line to thank you for your letter of the 25th February. I hope that I did not forget to thank you for the charming photographs of your children and the excellent portrait of yourself which you were good enough to send me last year; I have a distinct impression that I did so as I remember well how pleased I was at your kind thought of sending me such welcome mementos, and I hope that my

letter did not go astray. If, however, it has never reached you please forgive me and allow me to take this opportunity of thanking you most warmly.

You must have had very hard work over the Estates Land Bill and I imagine that no previous measure has ever occupied so many sittings of the Legislative Council. It must, however, have been very interesting and I wish that I could have been present at discussions which must have thrown a great deal of light on the laws, customs, and traditions of the Presidency. It is pleasant to hear from you that the Debates were conducted without ill-feeling, and I earnestly hope that the operation of the Act will not result in any hardship or inconvenience to Zamindars. I have not yet had time to read the Debates as I have been immensely busy with a variety of affairs both in and

out of Parliament, but I hope to be able to do so during the forthcoming Easter holidays.

I am watching the course of the Famine in India with much concern and interest. Please excuse a short and dictated letter on this occasion. With all good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) AMPHILL.

MILTON ERNEST HALL,
BEDFORD,

27th May, 1908.

MY DEAR RAJAH,

Forgive me for not writing to you in my own hand, but I am at present living in a small tent in a Militia camp and away from the convenience of a writing table. I am therefore obliged to write my letters in pencil and send them to be copied.

I have first of all to thank you for your welcome letter of 15th April and all its news.

The Budget Conference initiated by Sir Arthur Lawley seems to me an admirable innovation and I am glad that it is regarded with favour by the non-official members. I wish that I had had the honour of instituting it myself and the pleasure of thus conferring with my former colleagues on the Legislative Council. Probably all will be invited on the next occasion and I hope at any rate that you will take part.

It was very hard luck on Mr. Wynch having to deal with so disagreeable a business as the Tinnevelly riots so soon after his return, but I was proud to hear of the courage and firmness which he displayed after all efforts at conciliation had

failed. It is a great grief to me that the bad ways of the Bengalis should have been imitated in the Madras Presidency for I had always hoped that our people were too loyal and sensible to be carried away by the sedition-mongers.

I have heard from Risaldar Hari Singh myself and I am just going to write and congratulate him on his well-deserved promotion.

I hope that you will stick to the Council for I am sure that the Governor will be too glad to nominate you as long as you care to be a member; the opportunities for useful public service will surely increase as time goes on and you will be able to add to the honourable and truly aristocratic record of your family. The spirit in which you declined the special allowance is proof to me that you have a high

conception of your duties as a leading nobleman, and that it is a real pleasure to you to render public service.

I have had a good deal of illness in my family this Spring and my eldest boy has caused us much anxiety on account of heart trouble resulting from "influenza," a horrid treacherous illness from which you are happily free in India. Otherwise we have been prospering and getting more and more absorbed in the interests of a busy English life. But we never pass a day without thinking and talking about India.

Hoping that your children are well and with kindest regards from Lady Ampthill and myself,

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) AMPTHILL.