21 JUL 1930

# SELECTIONS

FROM

# THE RECORDS

OF

## GODAVARI DISTRICT.

REPORT BY Mr. SNODGROSS RELATIVE TO THE AFFAIRS OF THE ZEMINDARIES OF PITTAPORE AND PEDDAPORE.

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To

EDWARD SAUNDERS Esquire,

President &c. Members of the Board of Revenue,

*FORT ST. GEORGE.*

Gentlemen,

In reference to your Circular Orders of the 12th June on the subject of the Culture of Cotton I have the honor to communicate to you as follows.

That of White Cotton there is now produced in the Zemindary of Peddapore 435 Candies and in that of Pittapore 382 Candies of 480 lbs. each and that the average market price of the best sort is 20 Madras Pagodas per Candy.

This species of Cotton is never sown apart but is ever of mixt cultivation with Condooloo and Vahdah Paddy and with Condooloo and Auroogaloo and is sown Broad ast on grounds where the waters do not lay cultivated to the reatest possible extent collateral security against the failure of the abovementioned rains which requiring greater falls of rain than the Cotton has strength to bear ourish at such seasons but wither and Decay with that scanty supply of moisture hich produces an abundant increase of Cotton.

The Culture of the White Cotton does not require the encouragement of Governent nor should it seem capable of increase or even susceptible of improvement by e interposition of authority unless peradventure by a change of seed if better could e obtained and the farmers could be prevailed on to give it the Trial.

And if the Cotton Plant lately introduced at Madras from the French Islands has strength of constitution to bear the Humidity of the Northern Circars and if its produce has a length and strength of Fibre proportioned to its fineness it might unquestionably lay claim to the Privilege of Experiment.

I have the honor to transmit to you herewith a sample of the White Cotton and of its seed the produce of this Division.

Of Brown Cotton there is now produced in the Peddapore Zemindary 216 Candies and in that of Pittapore 138 Candies of 480 lbs. each. The average Market price of which is 18¾ Madras Pagodas per Candy.

The Tillage of this Species engrosses the Land that is appropriated to it no other Crop being extracted from it for the whole year nor does the same Field produce good Harvests of Brown-Cotton two succeeding years. The Husbandry of this Division allots to the black soil which crumbles and cracks in the dry and becomes clammy and adhesive in the Wet Season an annual alternation of Crops and Brown Cotton is succeeded by Jonaloo, Salagaloo, Annoomooloo and Oil seeds. In contradistinction to White Cotton instead of being thrown Broad Cast it is sown in Drills and the seed covered by drawing Bushes across and the preparation of the Land

MADRAS RECORDS CENTRE

Mr. THOMAS SNODGRASS,

Collector in the 1st Division of the

*MASULIPATAM DISTRICTS.*

Sir,

We received your letter of the 28th August last reporting upon the manufacture of Cotton in your Division and we now transmit you Extract of a letter from Government on that subject under date the 16th April with the Extract of a letter therein enclosed from the late Commercial Resident at Vizagapatam dated the 8th March.

You will observe that the means proposed by Mr. Darvall for extending the Cultivation of Cotton correspond in a great measure with the method recommended by you, as they agreeably tend though by different modes to ensure to the Ryot the produce of his labour. This method appears eligible and we can have no objection to the proposition which you submitted to us for authorizing you to limit to the Veesabady assessment and to exempt from the Malavurty those lands which may be appropriated to the culture of Cotton. We desire however that you will transmit a List of the Villages the Cotton Lands in which you propose thus to guarantee shewing the amount of the Veesabady and if possible what the average Malavurty has been for the three past years.

We agree with you that the Mauritius Cotton has certainly a claim to the pivilege of Experiment, We shall therefore endeavour to procure some seeds of that species and shall take an early opportunity of furnishing you therewith.

We are

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

Fort St. George,
26*th June* 1796.

(Signed)

Chas. N. WHITE.

Thos. COCKBURN

before the seed is committed to it is extremely operose while when the Plant has shot up it requires weeding, raking and Ploughing between the Drills with sedulous and laborious attention.

The number of Cattle and the expense required for the culture of Brown Cotton are very considerable yet as it is the most advantageous produce that can be obtained from the particular soil carried to great extent.

The inhabitants desired to be supplied with seed and cattle to enable them to increase their Plantations of Brown Cotton to both of which I was very adverse upon the principle that assistance of such a nature would defeat its own end and encourage idleness by removing that dependence on personal exertion and forecast which every Cultivator of the land should consider as his Chief if not only resource.

Besides that the country at large is actually over-stocked with Cattle and that seed Cotton is of too trifling consideration in value to occasion any preponderance in the scale of encouragement.

There is a mean which has been mentioned to the Farmers which has served to excite their wishes but which has not converted them to a belief of its feasibility in practice that mean however is in your power and would operate to double this article of Produce.

To explain this I must inform you that the lands of this Division are let on the Veesabady Cist, which, however apportioned it might have been to their value in ancient times, forms now a very moderate assessment. Whether from this latter circumstance or whether it originated with the Veesabady itself which I am most inclined to believe, yet, so it is, that the Zemindars exercise a right to levy a Malavurty or additional Tax over and above the Veesabady in cases of extraordinary increase which is not considered a hardship by the People when it is done upon fair and acknowledged Principles and which they would rather should be continued than that by its abolition the Zemindar should be tempted to let his Lands to the highest bidder.

Yet is the system in so far to be condemned that it opens a Door to oppression in the Zemindar or his Manager to be exercised upon Principles of Extortion or to be influenced by motives of Personal Hostility to the Renter.

The proposition which I have to submit to you is that those Lands which are appropriated to the culture of Brown Cotton shall be limited to the Veesabady Assessment, and exempted from the Malavurty which will assure to the Husbandman so good a Profit on this article that its increase and improvement may thenceforth be safely committed to his Exertions.

In making this suggestion I do not apprehend that the Zemindars can oppose any objections that will bear Public disquisition as the Malavurty does not form a fixt or Permanent Revenue and by confirming the Veesabady you will only corroborate the ancient and present mode of assessing the Lands.

You are to be informed that of the Brown Cotton a great Portion of the Company's Investment is already manufactured and you will be pleased to receive her a Sample of it and a Portion of the Seed the Produce of this Division.

A Finer species of Cotton than any that is grown in these parts is brought from the Westward by the Lombardies whose annual adventure is about a thousand Bullock Loads averaging generally at 10 per cent. greater Price than our Home Growth —such of their Import as is not disposed of in these Parts is carried on to Vizianagrum and other Places in the Vizagapatam District—of this Cotton also I have the honor to forward to you a Sample.

I have the honor to be with great respect,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

(Signed) THOMAS SNODGRASS.

PITTAPORE,

28th *August* 1795.

To

EDWARD SAUNDERS Esquire,

President &c. Members of the Board of Revenue,

*FORT ST. GEORGE.*

Gentlemen,

In reference to your letter of the 25th April I have the honor to acquaint you that placing dependence in the Assurances which I received from Mr. Wilson and which he communicated to you on my arrival here that the Committee he had sent out to collect materials for the Report required by your Instructions of the 8th November last had nearly accomplished the purposes of their Mission I did not adopt any measures stimulative of greater Expedition until I had perused his address to your Board of date the 12th April last when upon enquiry I found that if he had reason to mistrust the correctness of the returns to be made he had also been too sanguine in his Expectations of the promptitude of their delivery; from thenceforward I endeavoured by employing some additional Gumastahs both to accelerate and to render more accurate the Expected Returns still however exclusive of the little I now communicate I cannot flatter myself with the hope of being able to make my enlarged Report until after the conclusion of this Phaselly.

I cannot from any present knowledge accuse the Zemindars in this Division of throwing any obstructions in the way of procuring these Data but much perplexity and delay is occasioned by the Revenue Officers not readily comprehending the nature and Forms of the accounts required.

You have already been furnished with a Kistbundy and Mootahbundy for Pittapore conformably to your Instructions of the 8th November last and I have now the honour to transmit similar Documents for the Peddapore Zemindary.

The Estimate of the Villages has been made agreeably to the Committee of Circuits Valuation and exclusive of Sadavary and each Mootah or Division that is to be responsible for a sixteenth part of the Jummah has an additional (25) twenty five per Centum put upon it that it may bear the Expenses of Collection and all other probable contingencies and yet be equal to the portion of Revenue for which it may be assumed.

I should have observed the same Principle in the Division of Mootah-bundy for Pittapore but the Jumma of that Country bore so great a proportion to its actual Revenues that it was necessary the whole Country should be mortgaged for the Company's Claims and still so great a per centage to corroborate the Security was not obtained.

By your Instructions of the 8th November you are pleased to require communication of the Sentiments of Collectors on the subject of the new Kistbundy which I have no hesitation to say must afford great relief to the Zemindar and form an additional security to the Company's Revenues on the Proviso that he is obliged to conform thereto in the Settlement he may make with his own Renters and Managers otherwise by the System of Moostacabool (or four equal Instalments payable 20th March, May, October and December) he will have realized three fourths of his Revenues ere the Period arrives for paying any part to the Company which would offer such Seducements to dissipation that with the generality of Zemindars the consequences could not be of Desirable Speculation a bad Economist, when the time of payment came

and that he was destitute of Resources, might attempt some of these various means which Zemindars have heretofore practiced to evade his engagements or he would be drove to a ruinous anticipation of his future Revenues to satisfy the urgency of present demand; and though I do not mean to cast any reflection upon the Zemindars of my Division, of whose attachment and responsibility I have no doubt, still these observations are needful to point out that, without these precautions, the New Kistbundy will only afford relief to the Zemindar and not to the Inhabitants, which last you most probably contemplated when you Issued your Instructions.

As before I furnished you with a Statement of Sibbendy for Pittapore so now I have the honor to transmit that which has been submitted by Jaggapetty Rauze for Peddapore.

From the present state of my Collections I have no reason to Doubt of their being completed by the 30th July and that there will not thence arise any Bar to whatever arrangements you may be pleased to form.

The Zemindary of Pittapore having been relinquished by your orders there is not now any Salt Manufacture in my immediate management, still however I shall by every means, encourage its extension, and promote its Inland sale as much as possible.

The Term for that manufacture in this Quarter is from January to May inclusively and its average Expense is a Madras Pagoda and three sixteenths per Garce of which the three sixteenths go to Sibbendy Charges and the Pagoda to the Ryotts or Labourers in the Pans to whom it is advanced; one quarter in January one quarter in February one quarter in March and April and one quarter in May—Balances by the Custom of the Manufactory are never demandable at any future time their occurrence being chiefly attributable to Natural Causes or to the Idleness of the lower classes.

## SALT RUSSOOMS.

Payable to the Renter or Aumaunie Manager on the amount of his sales.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Pagoda fees | ... | 1 per Cent. |
| Zemindar's do. | ... | $3\frac{3}{8}$ do. |
| Devans do. | ... | 2 do. |
| Deputy do. do. | ... | 2 do. |
| 1st Musmedars do. | ... | $1\frac{1}{2}$ do. |
| 2nd Do. do. | ... | $1\frac{1}{2}$ do. |
| 3rd Do. do. | ... | $1\frac{1}{2}$ do. |
| 4th Do. do. | ... | $1\frac{1}{2}$ do. |
| Salt Despondies' do. | ... | $1\frac{3}{8}$ do. |
| Do. Musmedars do. | ... | $1\frac{3}{8}$ do. |
| Do. Curnum do. | ... | $1\frac{3}{8}$ do. |
| Do. Naig or head Peon do. | | $1\frac{1}{16}$ do. |
| Pilgrims ... | ... | $\frac{5}{16}$ do. |
| Total | ... | $19\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent |

Payable by the Purchasers.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| To Duan for his fees | ... | 3 per Cent. |
| To Despondiah do. | ... | $\frac{3}{4}$ do. |
| To Musmedar do. | ... | $\frac{3}{4}$ do. |
| To Curnum do. | ... | $\frac{3}{4}$ do. |
| To Measura do. | ... | $1\frac{1}{2}$ do. |
| Total | ... | $6\frac{3}{4}$ per Cent. |

F. C.

Besides 20-20 per % Madras Pagodas payable by the Brinjaries for their Purchases and distributable among the above mentioned five Officers.

The above rates are common to both the Zemindaries of Peddapore and Pittapur the former Manufactures about one thousand Garce which is entirely used within the Zemindary or sold to the bordering Hill Countries bringing on an average about five Pagodas per Garce and being rented out for 4,000 Pagodas per annum—Pittapur manufactures about five thousand Garce of which 350 retailed for home Consumption brings about 6 Pagodas per Garce—500 Garce were disposed of at about 3 Pagodas per Garce for inland Transport to the Zemindaries of Ramachendrapuram and Cotah which levy a Tax of 400 Madras Pagodas on the sales—to the Zemindaries of Polavaram and Geotala which levy a Tax of 150 Pagodas on the Sales—and to the assumed district of Conreondah where the sales are taxed at 100 Pagodas annually; these several Imposts have taken place subsequently to your abolition of the Monopoly formerly enjoyed by the Pittapore Zemindary for the Manufacture and Sale of Salt throughout the Rajahmundry Circar—the remaining Pittapore Salt is sold for Export at 2¼ Pagodas per Garce clear of charges.

In the course of my enquiries into this subject a paper has been produced to me entitled an Extract from a letter from your Board dated 10th May 1788 to the Chief and Council at Masulipatam in which Extract it appears that in consideration of the loss sustained by Pittapur by the abolition of the Salt Monopoly you direct that 5,000 Madras Pagodas shall be deducted annually from its Jummabundy desiring at the same time that the Chief and Council would make Report to you of their opinion of the proportions of that Remission which the neighbouring Districts benefitting by the measure ought severally to pay into the Company's Treasury.

It is asserted by the Manager of Pittapore that neither the Deduction above mentioned from Pittapur nor the increased assessment upon the neighbouring Districts ever took place and I have been induced in consequence to make application to Masulipatam for Excerpts from the Records there on this subject.

I have not yet obtained Statements of the Soyer or Land Customs but have learnt that in this Division there is not any general Principle of assessment—at some Chowkies a per centage on the value is levied; at others the Duty is taken by the Measure and at others the Tax is rated by the Load and again at others the Custom is exacted by the Weight if one simple Impost of per centage could be determined upon and if a Number of the Interior Chowkies were to be suppressed it would appear that many sources of imposition and oppression would be annihilated and proportionate encouragement yielded to Inland Commerce.

I have the honor to furnish you with lists of the Forts in this Division of which I understand those in the Peddapore Zemindary are kept in a state of tolerable repair the Zemindar being in one and the others lying on the Borders of his Country and intended to repress hostile incursion from the Hills. Those of Pittapore I have seen; they are all ruinous or deserted excepting Samulcotah which is Garrisoned by Company's Troops but not defensible. The Heats having moderated and my Revenue Collections being pretty well up I intend making a tour in a few days to inspect the Forts of Peddapore the only mode I have of "ascertaining" their real condition.

From the very great number of complaints that are made to me it would appear that some confidence is placed in the European Administration of Justice and as none of those complaints has accused the Zemindars of detaining any person in confine-

ment it would seem to confirm the Result of my Enquiries that neither Zemindar has any Prisoners.

In its actual state this Division has a very inadequate Population—and a great disproportion of Manufacturers—an insufficient circulation and consequently a scale of Husbandry much too limitted. It has no resources but in the Manufacture of Cloths, Salt and Salt Petre and in the Cultivation of the Soil it has neither Mines nor Forests and but little Foreign Trade comparatively to what it is entitled to by its capacity of produce and skill of Manufacture, the great causes of which are the Company's Monopoly of the Cloths most in demand, and a long continued series of Droughts and Famine. The auspicious opening of the present Season however leads to the hope that the latter are at an end, and that the Country may shortly come into a better state of comparisons with times past.

Though the above is a general character of the two Zemindaries in my Management it must be observed that Peddapore is in much better condition than Pittapore which has unfortunately been administered by a needy and dissipated character, while Jaggapettyrauze had, with the ability, happily the disposition to cherish his People in seasons of Calamity when he employed them in the excavation of Tanks &c. which though not so well situated as they might have been for the purposes of future Cultivation had for the time the good effect of supporting the Poor.

In a future report I shall have the honor of furnishing you with the particulars of the Population and Collection of these countries and of the shares allotted to the Inhabitants which in general is 10 Tooms per Candy to Natives and 11 or 12 to Foreigners as to the mode of those shares being secured, Cowles are given to new Settlers and to those who, belonging to a neighbouring country, engage with their Cattle to Cultivate particular Spots: but the only security of the Natives of the Country is Custom and Usage which, with regard to the shares of the Inhabitants, is seldom infringed.

The mode of assessment in both Zemindaries is that of Veesabady or a settled average of the Value of the Lands according to their distinct appropriation of Culture and being from 2 to 8 Pagodas per Veesum (of 8,000 square yards) used for the varieties of Grain and from 12 to 20 Pagodas per Veesum employed in the Culture of Sugar-cane—on occasions of extraordinary produce the Zemindars are wont to saddle the Veesabady with the Malavurty an arbitrary Tax upon the Increase or setting it aside altogether to give up the whole Produce to the Inhabitants and to take from them the Market price for the Circar share with a Tax (termed Dharataphavat) of half or a quarter Pagoda per Candy on its amount according to circumstances.

The Idea of oppression which this latter practice conveys is something extenuated when it is adverted that the Veesabady is determined by an old valuation of produce when money was accordingly dearer than in later times and that in the event of the Village being notoriously incapable of paying the Veesabady Cist no one will engage for it and the loss naturally rests with the Zemindar who must in that case keep it in Aumaumey.

The number and Condition of Tanks, Reservoirs and Water courses shall be reported on hereafter to the best of my Information and the Statements of Sibbendy before and now forwarded to you are declared to comprehend all the Military employed by either Zemindar.

I have called upon the Zemindars for Statements of Alienations and for information on all Points which were necessarily referrible to them and was promised these accounts by the close of this Phaselly and I have now in consequence of your orders of the 23rd May required that all Enaumdars &c. shall repair with their Sunnuds Doombalahs &c. to my Cutcherry.

The statement of the number and names of Revenue Officers their Duties and allowances will accompany my future report.

If the Chief and Council made any report upon your Orders of the 7th October 1793 I request to be furnished with a transcript thereof in the interim I am to inform you that no Exportation of Rice or Paddy has for thirty years past been in use from these Countries even in the best of time owing probably to the number of Manufacturers; to make a store of Grain therefore from the produce of the Country will be impracticable unless it may be expected that the reduced numbers left by the Famine may temporarily cultivate more than is requisite for the years' consumption and for seed and that Granaries may be filled the overplus such an Expedient even if successful at first you will perceive would be of short duration because as the Country recovered and the people grew up they would again probably consume the whole produce as formerly and your Granaries in such case must ultimately depend for repletion upon Importations from abroad and should in such case be situated Uppara, Cocanada and Coringa on the sea shore.

If however, speculating upon such a temporary superabundant Harvest as I have above alluded to, you should be pleased to make the Experiment in a smaller or greater degree of establishing Depots of Grain such Depots should be in the vicinity of the grounds where it is chiefly produced because there it will be stored with the smallest expense and when requisite to be served out as the fullest Population whether of manufacturers or cultivators attends the best Husbandry the People will have the least distance to go for it in such case I would recommend Granaries of masonry should be erected at Peddapore and Mandapatah for that Zamindary and at Pittapore for this District or one larger or more general Depot at Samulcotah.

These countries not being in your management it appears to me that the cheapest way of procuring Grain would be to direct the Zamindars to make a reserve of the quantity you wished to store from the Circar share of the produce and to deliver it into your Granaries in part of their Jumma at the market rate it should be delivered as soon after it was cut as possible being then the cheapest and it should be the care of the persons in charge of the Granaries to see the Paddy aired and dried sufficiently for store, for which a temporary sibbendy might suffice thereafter the expense of keeping would be very small.

Good full Paddy that is fit for storing (for sometimes little if any of the produ is fit) is not supposed to lose more than 3 per cent. in one year and allowing 2 cent. more for the depredations of Nirmin and for wastage in measurement cent. would be the total diminution of the stock at the time the next season vest came round and the outside I think of what would be likely to occur in buildings of Masonry.

It is well known that in this Country new Grain is esteemed un and that the last year's Produce bears a considerable advance of pr

new Harvest is gathered, fully aware of this I put the question to some Banyans of this place as to the proportionate value at such season between new and old Paddy they readily answered that one hundred of the last year's produce if it had been originally good and subsequently well kept was equal to one hundred and twelve of the best of new Produce and I believe that in Delivering this answer they by no means went to the extreme Verge of the Fact.

That such affairs are more plausible in theory than in practice must not be denied—that Private speculations guided their own Interests might be more active than the Public servants is probable and that combinations might be formed against the Public sales is possible—still I incline to the opinion that exclusive of the Expense of building the Granaries and of the cost of the first year's stock very little charge would be required to perpetuate the store of Grain determined on even if the Zamindars and Renters could not be prevailed upon to Exchange new Grain for old at such rate as experience might determine to be equitable.

To suggest the means of bringing additional supplies of Water to these Districts requires professional science and appropriate avocation but I shall have the honor wherever situation and whenever circumstance brings to my mind the Eligibility of improving an old or of constructing a new reservoir of making communication to you as the occasion arises.

I have the honor to be with great respect,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

(Signed) THOMAS SNODGRASS.

Pittapore,

20th June 1795.

## LIST OF PACKET.

Lett r

No. 1 Peddapore kistbundy in sixteenths
2 Do. mootah bundy responsible for Defaulcations of kistbundy.
3 Do. Sibbendy statement
4 Arzee from Neeladry Row 16th June
5 Extract from letter from the Board of Revenue to the Chief and Council of Masulipatam dated 10th May 1788.
6 List of Forts in Peddapore.
7 List of Forts in Pittapore.
8 List of Packet.

...ore, 20th June 1797. (Sd.) THOMAS SNODGRASS.

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(Revenue Department)

To

Mr. THOMAS SNODGRASS,

Collector in the 1st Division of the

*RAJAHMUNDRY CIRCAR.*

Sir,

We have received your letter of the 20th Instant with its enclosures, explaining the progress made in attaining those points of information relating to the district under your charge, required by our instructions of the 8th November and to which your attention was directed in our letter of the 25th April last. We approve of your intended tour through the country and hope to be furnished with complete and satisfactory details in your next report.

It will be an object worthy your attention to ascertain the troops of every description retained in the service of the Peddapore Zemindar, and to report their numbers and your opinion as to the best means of reducing them. The Zemindar to retain such only as may be required for carrying on the duties of Revenue it being in contemplation to raise Hill corps for other necessary services in order that no Troops may be kept up within the Company's Territories but such as are in their immediate pay.

In framing the alterations proposed for the arrangement of the Khistbundy in all ensuing settlements with Zemindars, we certainly had in view the relief of the Inhabitants as well as to provide for the fairest and most secure means of keeping the Zemindar strict in his Engagements to the Company. We agree with you, that an indifference to the manner in which the Zemindar might order his arrangements with Sub-renters or inhabitants if permitted to deviate from the terms under which he stands publicly engaged to Government would tend to defeat the object and the Zemindar of Peddapore being already bound by his last Caboleate not to receive or collect any part of the future Revenue by anticipation we desire you will make it clearly understood, that the Settlement by Mustacaboole or any other method of assessment by which an anticipation of Revenue may be encouraged, is positively prohibited, taking care, inasmuch as possible, that all engagements established under the Zemindars be conducted on the same principle which we have been induced to adopt for the general good of the whole.

It appears on a reference to our Records, that no answer was ever received from the late Chief and Council of Masulipatam to our Letter to them under date the 7th October 1793, except informing us that they would take measures for following up the orders therein contained.

In respect to these, and other important objects alluded to in your letter now before us we shall defer giving our final instructions thereon until we receive your

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further report on the subject, relying upon your vigilance to establish such checks as may appear to you likely to ensure the most accurate information.

We are
Sir,
Your most obedient Servants,

Fort St. George,
30th June 1795.

(Signed) Edwd. SAUNDERS.
" Chas. N. WHITE.
" Thos. COCKBURN.
" Willm. HARINGTON.

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To

EDWARD SAUNDERS Esquire,

President &c. Members of the Board of Revenue,

*FORT ST. GEORGE.*

Gentlemen,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Secretary's letter dated the 24th Ultimo, enclosing Duplicate Copy of your Circular Orders of the 27th July preceding.

Besides that I had no Salt under my immediate management I was moving about the Country at the period those orders arrived. I have now however the honor to communicate such information as I possess.

PITTAPORE.—In the present Pans of the Pittapore Zamindari there can be made (5,000) five thousand Garce of Salt which in the course of one year may by new Pans be increased to (6,000) six thousand Garce and as the country recovers its Population the latter quantity under the encouragement of a free Export to Bengal may perhaps be extended in a few years to seven and even to eight thousand Garce.

The Home Consumption absorbs about (350) three hundred and fifty Garce; the quantity the Lombardies take off is variable, their custom however is much solicited and it is stated as an average that what is disposed of to them and the neighbouring Zemindaries may amount to (800) eight hundred Garce

The average price of a Garce of Pittapore salt exported to Bengal is aggregated from the following particulars:—

| | |
|---|---|
| The amount of Rent to the Circar ... ... ... ... ... | 5000 |
| Ditto of Russooms to Zemindary Officers ... ... ... ... | 600 |
| | 5600 which |
| Divided upon 5000 Garce gives within a fraction per Garce ... | $1\frac{2}{16}$ |
| Price of manufacture making full allowances for losses by bad Debts ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Charges of Sibbendy and of Cadjans to cover it &c. ... ... | $\frac{3}{16}$ |
| Carriage to the Sea Beach ... ... ... ... ... | $\frac{2}{16}$ |
| Carriage from the Beach to the ship ... ... ... ... | $\frac{4}{16}$ |
| Sea Customs paid to the Company ... ... ... ... | $\frac{4}{16}$ |
| There being a limited Employ for Tonnage the present freight is from 3 to 3¼ Madras Pagodas per Garce but allowance should be made for the rise of Freight when the Trade is opened and 4 Pagodas is thought a probable average ... | 4 |

Madras Pagodas $6\frac{15}{16}$ per Garce of 5109 lbs. Avoirdupois.

The above statement not comprehending the merchants' Profit nor allowing for Deficiencies of transport (for which among Merchants an allowance of 5 per cent. is

generally made) nor including the risk or Insurance is so far incomplete but as those are articles which can be more fairly Estimated by the Merchants of Madras I have no further endeavoured to ascertain them than by requiring of the Salt Renter of Pittapore (who is both a Vessel Owner and Trader in Salt at Bengal) to be informed for what specific sum per Garce he would deliver in Calcutta Salt of the Musters of No. 1 to No. 6 inclusive himself bearing all the Expenses of delivery there which he states he will do for (9½) nine and a half Madras Pagodas at which he will engage to deliver (if he is continued in his present rent) two Lack of Maunds or 3330 Garce per annum of which from ten to fifteen thousand Maunds will be delivered in March and April and the remainder from July to October. If the Contract Price is paid there in Arcot Rupees the Exchange to be at 375 ₹ % Madras Pagodas if in Siccas at a Batta of 8 per cent. between Arcots and Siccas.

Of the above Pittapore Salt about 300 Garce are manufactured at the pans of Ponnadah and Chirllapilly which are those only that are too remote from the Sea to admit of their Produce being exported the remaining Pans are all in diffrent degrees conveniently situated for that purpose.

By the addition of one quarter of a Madras Pagoda per Garce to the Price manufacture making that 1¼ Madras Pagoda about ten or 12 Garce of finer salt may be procured from the Pittapore Pans but this is only obtained by careful skimming of the upper surface from the deposition of Salt in the pans which is an unprofitable waste of time.

The accompanying Musters of No. 1 to 6 inclusively are of Pittapore Salt of the quality generally produced for Exportation.

JAGGERNAICKPORAM.—In the present Pans of Jaggernaickporam may be Manufactured (800) Eight hundred Garce of Salt which by additional Pans may in one year be augmented to (1000) one thousand Garce but any further extension or increase is not to be expected.

The Home Consumption may be five or six Garce the farmer of this Salt by paying 100 Madras Pagodas to Doctor Roxbrough obtained from him an exclusive Privilege to dispose of salt in the Corcunda District for last year with the exception of such a casuality however it may be said that the Dutch when in possession of Jaggernaickporam had no Inland rent for the Produce of their salt Pans.

The average price of a Garce of Jaggernaickporam salt exported to Bengal may be estimated from the following particulars.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| The amount rent paid for the farm was 500 which divided upon 800 Garce gives about... | ... | ... | 0—22—40 |
| Price of Manufacture | ... | ... | 0—33—60 |
| Charges of sibbendy and of Cadjans to cover it &c. | | ... | 0— 2—20 |
| Expense of carriage to the Sea Beach | ... | ... | 0— 5—50 |
| Do. Do. from the Beach on Ship board | | ... | 0— 7—70 |
| Freight ... | ... | ... | 4— 0— 0 |
| | | Madras Pagodas ... | 6—0—0 |

From the above it appears that the salt Renter under the Dutch enjoyed his farm

upon terms considerably more advantageous than the Renter of the Pittapore salt. The Terms of his Rent were not in proportion so high the Price of labor he procured cheaper and he was not subject to sea Customs on Exportation. But on the other hand his Salt is very inferior. On the points of the Merchants' Profit of the Wastage by transportation and of the risk or insurance the above Statement is equally deficient with that given for Pittapore.

The whole quantity of salt manufactured at Jaggernaickporam lies most conveniently situated for Exportation.

By the addition of one Madras Pagoda per Garce to the Price manufacture making that two (2) Pagodas about twenty Garce of a finer salt may be procured by the same mode and with a similar waste of time as is mentioned under the head of Pittapore.

The accompanying musters of N. 7 to 8 inclusively are of Jaggernaickporam salt of the quality generally produced for Exportation.

PEDDAPORE.—In the present pans of the Peddapore Zemindary (1000) One Thousand Garce of salt can be made, as to quantity the manufacture is carried nearly to the utmost extent already and the quality is no otherwise susceptible of improvement than by an Expensive Process of Boiling which it cannot afford to bear.

The whole is used for home Consumption in the Peddapore Zamindary and in its Dependencies Totapilly and Jeydinghie Hill Countries and is often insufficient for those markets which in such cases draw a resource from the neighbourhood of Nellipillee.

The Peddapore salt, Musters of which are in boxes from No. 9 to No. 12 inclusively is of so very bad a quality that its neighbours could it be offered in their markets would certainly reject it and independent of its quality the pans are so remote from the sea that no Exportation has ever nor probably will ever be attempted.

Therefore it is that I have the less to regret my not having yet obtained an account of the costs and Expenses of the manufacture which if deserving of communication can be forwarded hereafter.

There is a peculiarity in the manufacture of the Cantravoopaudoo salt, Muster No. 12, which is deserving of notice. To those pans the Tide does not convey the Sea water but wells are sunk in the Earth and from thence salt water is drawn in Potts into which Potts is then thrown a saline Earth scraped from the surface of the soil a small hole is made in the Bottom of the Pott and the filtration is received into another Pott beneath with this impregnated water the Pans are then filled and salt ultimately produced by the common means of Evaporation or Exhalation of this salt there used to be manufactured before the Famine 200 Garce of which quantity it now falls considerably short for want of hands.

I have ordered the number and name of each salt muster to be cut on the outside of the Box and the company's Arams to be affixed to each. The whole twelve Boxes will then be enclosed in one chest and marked Salt of the first Division of the Masulipatam District.

I have the honor to be with the greatest respect,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

(Signed) THOMAS SNODGRASS.

COCANADA,
*2nd September* 1795.

To

EDWARD SAUNDERS Esquire,

President &c. Members of the Board of Revenue,

*FORT ST. GEORGE*

Gentlemen,

Referring to your directions that I should make personal inspection of the Forts in the Peddapore Zemindary and take account of the Military retained by Jaggapetty rauze I have the honor to report as follows:—

That the fort of Nundoor is situated near the North Western Frontier and is chiefly intended to restrain incursion from the Golcondah Country of the Vizagapatam District though it also serves as a check upon the Totahpilly Zemindary of this Division. It is built of Earth only is a square of about one hundred yards and has a small round Bastion at each angle from whence only defence is intended or can be made, it has neither a Ditch nor a Glacis and is so naked that even its Gateway is uncovered. It stands upon the Banks of the Golgonda River which is the reason perhaps that neither a well or any other reservoir of water is to be found in it its ruinous condition would seemto indicate a long undisturbed tranquility which possibly has had its influence upon the discipline of the Garrison likewise which during Daylight adjourns to the village on its South-East angle.—

The Establishment for this Garrison is one hundred men but in consequence of the Condition of affairs in Golgonda thirty four additionals are now retained—of the whole number ninety six Pikemen abstain from all but Military Duties the remainder consisting of matchlock men —Bow and arrow men and swordsmen besides their Military Duties are employed as sibbendy as messengers and as Watchmen. The pay of this Garrison is given in specie and is from 4 to 6 Rupees per month to each the higher or lower Pay being governed by Caste by favor or by caprice.—

The fort of Nundoor stands on an extensive plain skirted in all directions by distant Hills and appearances would not bespeak the climate as likely to be noxious even to Europeans but the Testimony of the Natives forbids such a conclusion being drawn. In the event however of the Golgonda Zemindar being refractory this Station might be thought Eligible for a Detachment of the Company's troops as from hence the interior of that Country might be quickly penetrated.

Persuing a Western route within the first range of Hills I arrived at Routoolapoody distant from Noondoor about six Coss and situated on the Western Verge of a Plain near the base of the greater mountains between which and the fort is a considerable sheet of Water from which and from general aspect belief is readily given to the assertions of the Natives that Fevers are here prevalent.

The Fort of Routoolapoody was built by Jaggapetty rauze about 20 years since to Curl the Hill Zemindars of Totahpilly and Jeydinghie but principally the first mentioned a stranger does not readily approve the choice of situation for this purpose and would probably only yield his judgment to the presumption that Experince

must have directed to the selection of this spot for the Fort was built at the end of a long warfare.

It is of Earth only and in shape an Elongated square—there was once a Ditch round it and the Gateway is now covered by a traverse which protrudes so far that no fire from the Garrison can bear upon its outer face—In the body of the place there is a Well and Barracks and a Guard room at the Gateway in other respects Rowtoolapoody is the same as Nundoor though not quite so ruinous.

The Establishment for this Garrison is one hundred men the services of fifty seven of whom are exclusively Military the remainder perform the Additional Duties of Sibbendy—Watchmen and Messengers—their Pay is generally the same as the Garrison of Nundoor and to the same differences from similar undefined motives.

As my route led me near to the retreat of the Totahpilly Zemindar I resolved to visit it and sent a message to him to that effect. Baupenah Dorah betrayed neither jealousy nor backwardness on the occasion but immediately came out to meet me accompanied by the Jeydinghie Zemindar with whom he is connected by the intermarriage of sisters.

The approach to Totahpilly like all other Fastnesses of the like nature in the Circars is through a Jungle and the road has been defended by three Breast Works overhung with Jungle and strengthened by traverses but these Defences are now in ruins and the Jungle itself has been curtailed in extent and thinned by the late Invasions of Wood Cutters and does not at present reach a coss from Totahpilly.

This recess is in the South side of the second range of Hills and occupies a small Basin every part of which may be commanded by musquetry from the surrounding Hills its resources for defence are not great but the means of retreat for the Natives are numerous and a high Pinnacle on the North West where there is also a natural Cave serves for a Picket Station and for sounding the nagger to spread alarm on contingency over the interior of the Country.

Baupenah Dorah retains about five hundred armed Persons as well to control his own Cond Inhabitants as to guard him from the violences of his freebooting neighbours on the West and North; he is of mild disposition and of complacent demeanor and is reputed to be a just character added to these safeguards his Poverty and the Afflictions which the late Famine brought upon his Country would seem to assure that the Lowlands are in no danger from his Irruptions.

A West and North-west route carried me from thence to Annavaram a Fort of Jaggapetty Ranze's far within the Hills it was in an old war with the Jeydinghie Zemindar wrested from him and was wisely converted into an advanced Post for curbing his excursions for which it is admirably well situated. Itself however partakes of all the characteristics of a Hill Polygars retreat and the Native of an open Country cannot contemplate its aspects but with anguish apprehension.

Annavaram is built of Earth only is about an hundred yards square with small round Bastions at the angles its Gateway is covered by a traverse which has the same defect as that at Rowtoolapoody a sally port at the opposite side has been closed up and on that Face a deep Ravine affords an enemy a secure approach to the Foot of the Wall. This Garrison in contradistinction to those before mentioned is

commanded by a Military man and discipline is more discernible but otherwise state of repair and defence claims no pre-eminence. There is not any water in the Fort yet the Commandant and Peons reside therein constantly.

The number of the Garrison is one hundred of all Descriptions of which forty seven Pikemen follow military occupation only, the remainder have such additional Duties as have been before detailed and the whole are paid on the principles above recited over and above this Garrison the renter of this District is allowed fifty men from the Rajah for military and sibbendy services.

Having informed the Jeydinghie Zemindar that I should visit his place likewise I proceeded thereto four coss further within the Hills through a very defensible Country; the road lay through three defiles was in some places intersected by a small river with a remarkably deep stony Bed and in others by ravines little less obstructive and the way was overshadowed by a continued jungle of the wildest feature.

The Zemindar's residence is no otherwise defended than by the Difficulty of approach it occupies a site on the point of a Peninsula of Hills projecting into a Basin left by the more distant mountains this Basin is beside interspersed with small detached Hills and overrun for the most part with Jungle.

Venkatareddy Dorah (the Jeydinghie Zemindar) seems to be of very limited natural capacity and of uncultivated manners to have derived no assistance from Education and to have benefited but little from civilized intercourse he retains about one hundred armed people. In his own character or in the resources of his Country no feature is to be traced which can give the smallest alarm to the Inhabitants of the plain.

Being drawn off by other avocations I had not an opportunity of inspecting the Fort of Peddapore until within these few days.

Peddapore is on the plain of the sea coast within four short miles of the Company's Garrison of Samalcotah and proves to be as much out of repair as the Frontier Stations. Being not so easily described I employed a mapochy to make a rough sketch of it which is enclosed where the low Hills are discontinued it is built up of earth which in some places is faced with Brick and in others with stone some parts are retained by a mixture of stone and brick and others again are left without facing—it is in great degree commanded by a neighbouring Hill and its defences even in its best days must have been very contemptible.

Until lately it was the Place of the Rajah's residence and he was building a new house therein but on the Demise of his Wife he stopped the Work and removed to an habitation in the village of Peddapore.

In the body of the place there is no good Water but there are three Tanks under its Walls. There are fourteen or fifteen pieces of old artillery (Dutch) from nine to two Pounders without carriages and lying half buried on the Works two old Brass Guns one or one and half pounders are lashed upon carriages and serve for saluting.

The Garrison of Peddapore consists of (103) One hundred and ninety three people variously armed at their own Expense being paid in specie by the Rajah annexed to the Duties of the Fort.

Besides the several Garrisons above reported the Zemindar has inherited an incumbrance of four hundred and fifty people relations and connections of his Family, Rackswars and Talagooloos who are paid some in money some in Land and some by privileges the services of these People are not local nor are they embodied they reside at their own Habitations and are spread over the whole Zemindary their Duty is to be forthcoming whenever called upon for the service of the Zemindar and on him their only means of existence depends.

Under the present constitution of Government the Military Habits of this Class of people must wear away with the present generation but long succeeding times may perceive little if any reduction of the Expense as the Pride of birth and the want of Education are disqualifying circumstances in other occupations.

In your letter of the 20th June last you were pleased to acquaint me that it was in contemplation to raise Hill Corps for services that were not of a Revenue nature and though from the foregoing report you will undoubtedly form your own judgment of the Expediency of such a measure for this Division yet I may be excused if from the circumstance of such communication being made to me I presume to intrude an opinion that such an expense may be curtailed in the proportion that this division was intended to partake of the Establishment for in this quarter no Revenue is derived from the Hills and no apprehension can reasonably be entertained from their Inhabitants.

The force kept up by Jaggapetty Rauze upon the borders at the same time that it is sufficient to the end is in the means at the lowest calculate of Expense. To Hill Corps it may be imagined European Officers will be attached among whom it must be apprehended that the deleterious influence of climate will make great ravages and it is my duty to suggest that while Peace and tranquility obtains the adoption of such a measure would not appear in the short sighted Policy of the Hill Polygar to have any but an hostile intent and thence a door would be opened to mistrust and a long train of Evils might come on as it were by natural induction.

When I had the honor (I think in 1792) to propose a Corps of Hill Rangers for the services of the Ganjam District it was as I trust you will perceive under very different circumstances there a great part of the Company's Revenues is drawn from Countries within the Hills and at that time a warfare between the Zemindars and the Company of nearly four years' duration was just brought to a close by their subjugation and the measure might have been introduced as an obvious precaution arising from recent transactions which would well have borne out its justification.

For the defence of this Circar to the Westward I would suggest as fully efficient a small increase of the Force stationed at Rajahmundry which increase if Troops are wanted might be made by the Facile means of removing thither the Garrison from Samulcotah a Post which whatever might have been its former consequence, has from change of circumstances now lost its Utility.

As my route to Nundoor lay through Toongy I considered it to be no less a matter of Duty than of Curiosity to inspect the Basin which is mentioned to be in that neighbourhood by a letter from Lieutenant Alexander Denton published by Mr. Dalrymple together with other tracts Entitled Plan for watering the Circars and having made some remarks upon the spot with the view of communicating them to you there can be no impropriety in giving them place in this letter.

Having been used to Hilly countries from after the first year of my arrival in India the view of this supposed Basin made no impression on my feelings from the novelty of Landscape and not being subjected to the enthusiasm of system I judged from the first cursory view that in effect it was not a Basin and this I proved by walking through it (accompanied by Lieutenant Fransis Thompson) for a little way up the River there opened upon us a wide cultivated valley through which if dammed below, the River could not fail to take a new course to the south west as it makes an elbow exactly at the aperture of that valley which having received the waters would conduct them to the sea probably within two or three miles south of the place where the River now disembognes.

From the space between the Hills at the point where the River now quits them which is sufficient to admit of four times the volume of water that can overflow in the channel and from the appearance of the Northern Bank at this spot which is of Earth by no means tenacious and a flat of (200) two hundred yards from the Hill on that side I judged that in seeking this course to the sea the river took a natural and easy direction and by the position of the aforementioned Valley I was confirmed in opinion on that if the river had ever met with any extraordinary obstruction in its present route it would have forced a Channel for itself by the other.

In this excursion I was accompanied by the curnums and Head Inhabitants of Tooney who declared to me that they had no idea of any Basin being in that neighbourhood nor could they comprehend the utility of the proposed Dam but they were extremely solicitous to carry me to the mouth of a canal which takes off from the River exactly at the spot which was under Lieutenant Denton's contemplation.

This canal had been undertaken about thirty years since and was originally intended to carry water from the river to some tanks about three miles to the Westward; considering the Tank Diggers usually employed for such services to be more capable of forming a correct judgment than myself of such a business I summoned those in the neighbour-hood and gave it charge to them to survey the ground and to report to me the practicability and the expense of executing the work. In the result they offered to excavate the Canal to the length and depth for (6000) six thousand Rupees but declared at the same time that the level of the Tanks in question being higher than the rise of water in the River the work would be useless and the conveyance of water from the latter to the former impracticable adding that they ascribed to this cause that the undertaking had before been relinquished.

I have the honor to be with great respect,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

(Signed) THOMAS SNODGRASS.

COCANADA,

*25th September* 1795.

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To

EDWARD SAUNDERS Esquire,

President &c. Members of the Board of Revenue,

*FORT ST. GEORGE.*

Gentlemen,

In reference to your letter of the 25th May, I have the honor to acquaint you that there is the fullest evidence, that both the Zemindars of this Division were obedient to the Orders of Government in the abolition of Land Custom on Grain during the late Famine; notwithstanding which however, it is so universally affirmed (though at this late period no person will come forward with any positive evidence) that credit must be given to the fact, that in many situations remote from the Cusbahs and from places of European residence those Customs were collected for the emolument of the Gumastahs, and even in those situations where the collection of Custom was intermittent in obedience to your orders, the usual fees were continued to be exacted, which last is now avowed and defended upon the principle, that they were requisite to the very existence of those whom ancient usage entitled to them and that their abolition was not comprehended in your interdiction of assessment.

These abuses in course got to a greater head in Pittapore under the lax and improvident Management of Comarah Mahepetty Row, than in Peddapore, but I have not been able to discover, that they were ever made known to either Zemindar.

I have met with insuperable difficulties in procuring such an account of collections, for the Phasellies of 1200-1201 and 1202 as I could venture to recommend to your full confidence, and these arose from the circumstance of the accounts for those years having already been delivered to the Agents of the Chief and Council of Masulipatam, to which accounts all the Curnums have unalterably adhered, from a conception, I imagine, that they would not be altogether secure of impunity for former imposition, even from the Company, and from apprehension perhaps, that the Zemindars resentment might overtake them, though might govern your resolutions and the time is so far back, that other individuals have no motive to make discovery, or means of affording proof.

In this dilemma I took up with a resource, which though, as I have said above, cannot fully be depended upon will I trust considering the length of the retrospect meet with some portion of your approbation—this was to engage the services of the Head Despondah of this Circar who was readily lent to me on my late tour by Mr. Campbell who, though his office has not that efficiency that it was formerly wont of supposing his integrity to be correspondent to his ability, but be than any other person for a task of the nature of that which I , but I suspect, that his impartiality may be secretly warped by e Zemindars, for the advantage which they have taken under the nt to curtail his privileges, and that he may be instigated by a nself to the Company, for the restoration of his office to its se constitute the drawbacks u at full credit which I

should otherwise repose in his statement, which from thence I should apprehend to be rather over than under rated.

By the ancient administration of the Zemindaries of this Division, which is now adhered to every village that can be rented upon the Veesabaddy Cist, is let out, and as little as possible is kept in Aumaunie Management, hence the Zemindars may incur loss, but can never derive gain from the irregularity of the Seasons—they may be obliged to make remissions to the insolvent which can only be compensated to their Treasuries by exactions from the more fortunate renters, and those exactions if they, in the years referred to, exceeded the customary Malliviurty would I doubt not in some instances have been complaind of, since this enquiry has been instituted.

I may not be correctly informed, but I understand, that Ramchunderauze of the third Division, retains nearly the whole of his Country in Aumaunie management, and that of its produce two-thirds are dry grains including Vathaloo if these are facts, it well accounts for the report Mr. Branfill has made to you of the collections in that quarter—but in this Division, besides that as little country as possible is retained in management, the crops of dry grain are not estimated at more than one-third of the produce—consequently in a dry season there must be a greater proportioned defalcation of revenue.

As to the conduct of the Zemindars towards their Under Renters and Ryots during the period of scarcity, that of Jaggapetty Rauz was remarkably indulgent to the first and humane to the latter description of his inhabitants, and he very wisely took that opportunity of employing numbers of people, to cleanse old and to excavate new tanks, the natural consequence of which is, that Peddapore is now not near so much distressed for inhabitants as many of the neighbouring Districts.

Pettapore was not so fortunate Commarah Mihepetty Row by character was a man of good natural disposition, and not wanting in feelings suitable to the melancholy occasion, but unhappily, long rooted habits of dissipation had at once absorbed his resources and annihilated his credit, and perhaps no portion of the Masulipatam District, obtained such little relief during the Famine as that under his administration.

I have the honour to enclose the original account received from the Despondar authenticated by his Signature and attended by a translation having registered copies of the same in my Cutcherry.

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L 95

I have the honor to be with the greatest respect

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

(Signed) THOMAS SNODG

COCANADA.

11th November 1795.

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