

APPENDIX, No. 21.

Extract from FORT ST. GEORGE Revenue Consultations, of the
27th October 1807.

THE honourable the President records the following Minute: with
Enclosure.

As the importance of the Ceded Districts to the honourable Company, both in a political light, and as a valuable source of existing public revenue, has frequently drawn the attention of the honourable Court, as well as of this government, to the best mode of management for those extensive possessions, it became a primary duty upon me, on my succession to the government of this presidency, to take

Extract Fort St. George
Revenue Consultations,
26 Oct. 1807.

Minute of the President ;
relating to the Ceded Dis-
tricts. 26 Oct. 1807.

into my most mature deliberation, assisted by the best authorities I could consult, the most expedient measures to be pursued upon the resignation of Colonel Munro, that the public might suffer the least possible injury, by the departure of that enlightened officer, and that the principles he had acted upon with so much success, might still continue to be the guide of the revenue administration in that province. Upon this subject I had many conversations with the late president of the council and Colonel Munro, as well as with the present members of the government, and the result of my best and perfectly unbiassed reflection is, that it is my duty to recommend to the council, the adoption of Colonel Munro's suggestions, contained in the memorandum which I have now the honour to submit to the board. I believe it was not the intention of Colonel Munro that this paper should be considered, as a public document ; but I trust I shall appear justified in producing it, as I consider it as a testimony too honourable to the merits of the late collector, and too creditable to the gentlemen whom he recommends, to be withheld from the records.

Mr. Thackeray having declined, for reasons which I could not disapprove, the charge of the Ceded Districts, I beg leave to recommend that Messrs. Gahagan, Shaw, and Chaplin, be appointed collectors of the three divisions of the province, as explained in Colonel Munro's memorandum ; that the division should be the same, as the three judicial zillahs, with this alteration, that the district of Yarkee should be transferred from the southern to the western, or Bellari division, for the reasons given by the late collector.

The pleasure I have felt in perusing the accompanying paper, so descriptive of present comfort and tranquillity in the country, and so flattering to the hopes of future improvement, induce me to conclude this minute with the following extract :

"If no alteration is attempted, the Ceded Districts will yield, one year with another, about 18 lacks of pagodas : and it will never be necessary to call out a single Sepoy to support the collections. But the importance of the Ceded Districts does not rest merely upon the production of a great revenue. In a political and military view, they are of still higher value ; for they are now, what the Carnatic formerly

“was, the country from which our armies, when employed in the Deccan, must draw all their supplies of cattle and provisions. All these considerations, urge the expediency of keeping the Ceded Districts, as they now are; and of not risking any thing, by a change of men and measures.”

Madras, }
26 October 1807. }

WILLIAM PETRIE.

THE revenue of the Ceded Districts, when under the Nizam, was declining rapidly every year. An army was constantly in the field, whose expense consumed the collections; and the country was altogether in such a distracted state, that the Nizam seems to have given it up to the Company, because he could not retain it, in subjection. The country is now quiet, and well-affected. No troops are required in it, for the preservation of internal tranquillity; and the revenue is collected, with the greatest ease.

Memorandum of Col. Munro as to the Ceded Districts.

The way most likely to secure these advantages would be, to continue, as nearly as possible, the system of management which has been observed, during the last seven years. This might easily be effected, by appointing Mr. Thackeray principal collector, who, from his general knowledge of revenue, his experience in the Ceded Districts, and his acquaintance with the inhabitants, is the person best qualified for that situation. In the event of his declining it, the next best mode of arrangement would be, to divide the districts into two divisions, each to be under a principal and sub-collector, and the divisions containing respectively the same districts, that were entered in the two zillahs, which I formerly recommended to the board of revenue, to be established. This plan is however objectionable, under present circumstances, because there are not two sub-collectors in the Ceded Districts, who have had sufficient experience to act, as principals, and because the introduction of new men into them, unacquainted with the mode of management, and with the inhabitants and poligars, might be attended with bad consequences, both to the revenue and the peace of the country. [795]

It would, therefore be advisable, in place of two principals, to have three ordinary collectors; to divide the country into three divisions; and to appoint the present sub-collectors to the management of them.

Mr. Gabagan has been employed in the Ceded Districts between four and five years; and Messrs. Shaw and Chaplin, between three and four. The system which now prevails, is familiar to them. They know the disposition of the inhabitants, and the characters of the native servants; and from these, and other causes, they are better calculated than any other set of men, to conduct the affairs of the Ceded Districts successfully.

It is essential to the welfare of that province, that there should not only be no actual change, but that nothing should be done which might excite a suspicion, that any was intended. The disturbances by which it was formerly agitated, have been too recently settled, to render it either prudent or safe to hazard any experiment of innovation. The appointment of new men, would shake the confidence of the inhabitants

in the stability of the present system; would revive the hopes and obsolete pretensions of fugitive poligars; and might throw things into a state of confusion, from which they would not again be easily extricated.

If no alteration is attempted, the Ceded Districts will yield, one year with another, about eighteen lacs of pagodas; and it will never be necessary to call out a single sepoy to support the collections. But the importance of the Ceded Districts does not rest merely upon the production of a great revenue. In a political and military view, they are of still higher value; for they are now, what the Carnatic formerly was, the country from which our armies, when employed in the Deccan, must draw all their supplies of cattle and provisions. All these considerations, urge the expediency of keeping the Ceded Districts, as they now are; and of not risking any thing, by a change of men or measures.

The three divisions should be the same as the three judicial zillahs, with the exception only, that the district of Yarkee should be transferred from the southern to the western or Bellary division, because its nullahs and cultivation on the river Penuah, are intermixed with those of that division. The annual revenue of the western division, would be nearly seven lacs; and of each of the other two, about five and a half lacs of pagodas.

Thomas Munro.

The Board concurring in the recommendation contained in the Resolution thereon. foregoing Minute, it is ordered, that the appointments be communicated to the gentlemen, and to the Board of Revenue.

Extract from Revenue Dispatch from St. George; dated
21st October 1807.

Para. 260. Mr. PETRIE reviewed the services of Lieutenant-Colonel Munro in the Ceded Districts, noticed the gradual augmentation which he had produced of the revenue, from 12½ lacs to 18 lacs of S. pags. per annum; and the general amelioration and improvement of the manners and habits of the inhabitants of the Ceded Districts, which had kept pace with the increase of revenue. From disunited hordes of lawless plunderers and free-booters, they are now stated to be as far advanced in civilization, submission to the laws, and obedience to the magistrates, as any of the subjects under this government. The revenues are collected with facility; every one seems satisfied with his situation; and the regret of the people is universal on the departure of the principal collector.

Extract from General Report of Board of Revenue at Fort
St. George; dated 5th October 1808.

Extract General Report of Board of Revenue, Fort St. George; 5th Oct. 1808. Para. 156. WE had the honour to conclude our address by inserting the following Statement of the collections derived from these districts, from Fusly 1210 to 1217* inclusive, a series of eight years, constituting the whole period of time, during which they had been subject to the Company's government. [796]

* 1201 to 1807-8.

STATEMENT of COLLECTIONS derived from the CEDED DISTRICTS; from the Fusly year 1210 (1800-1) until Fusly 1217 (1807-8) inclusive.

	Land Rent.		Licences.		Customs.		TOTAL.		Remission.		Actual Collection.	
	S. Pags.	f. c.	S. P.	f. c.	S. P.	f. c.	S. P.	f. c.	S. P.	f. c.	S. P.	f. c.
Fusly ... 1210	10,06,543	25 76	27,170	— 12	69,057	15 50	11,02,770	41 58	24,674	26 48	10,78,096	15 10
— ... 1211	12,48,493	39 11	39,349	93 59	69,671	1 29	13,84,514	38 19	2,519	34 23	13,81,995	3 76
— ... 1212	12,79,723	7 43	52,940	19 17	80,950	33 26	14,13,614	40 6	714	41 47	14,12,899	40 39
— ... 1213	13,08,169	2 12	57,954	— 55	83,412	26 73	14,49,535	29 60	—	—	14,49,535	29 60
— ... 1214	15,33,505	3 35	63,907	41 64	69,237	11 72	16,46,750	15 11	—	—	16,46,750	15 11
Kurnoul ...	32,560	31 71	—	—	—	—	32,560	31 71	—	—	32,560	31 71
Fusly ... 1215	16,41,986	24 48	59,858	39 25	56,790	30 32	17,58,616	10 25	180	36 32	17,58,435	15 73
Kurnoul ...	28,645	35 —	—	—	—	—	28,645	35 —	—	—	28,645	35 —
Fusly ... 1216	13,91,110	37 18	72,485	34 70	46,099	17 53	15,09,696	5 61	8,158	41 4	15,01,537	6 57
Kurnoul ...	28,645	35 —	—	—	—	—	28,645	35 —	—	—	28,645	35 —
Fusly ... 1217	15,17,272	27 5	73,551	2 1	15,598	3 78	16,06,421	33 4	—	—	16,06,421	33 4
Kurnoul ...	28,645	35 —	—	—	—	—	28,645	35 —	—	—	28,645	35 —
TOTAL ...	1,09,06,904	41 8	447,198	29 63	5,17,817	17 13	1,18,71,921	4 4	36,249	11 74	1,18,35,671	41 1
TOTAL Kurnoul...	1,18,498	10 71	1,18,498	10 71	—	—	1,18,498	10 71
GRAND TOTAL	1,10,25,403	9 79	447,198	29 63	5,17,817	17 13	1,19,90,459	14 75	36,249	11 74	1,19,54,170	8 1

157. The judicious policy, we remarked, could not be too highly applauded, by which Lieut.-Colonel Munro, fixing in the first instance, on a moderate scale of jumma, and increasing it only as the means of the renters, and the capacity of the country, enabled him safely to do, advanced these provinces from the almost ultimate point of declension, to which they had been sunk by a weak and improvident government, to the degree of comparative prosperity and promise, in which they now remain.

158. The example we believe to be unparalleled in the revenue annals of this presidency, of so extensive a tract of territory, with a body of inhabitants little accustomed to passive submission and legitimate obedience to the ruling authority, reduced, from confusion to order; and a mass of revenue, amounting to no less a sum than 1,19,90,419 star pags. being regularly, and at length readily collected, with a remission, on the whole, of only 3,415. 28. 22. pagodas or 1 fanam 22 cash per cent.

159. Amidst the cares and exertions of conducting and sustaining such an extensive series of collections, Lieut.-Colonel Munro, at the same time commenced, prosecuted, and accomplished the arduous duty of surveying, classifying, and assessing, with a moderate, but adequate money-rent, the whole range of these provinces. This survey had cost the Company between eighty and ninety thousand pagodas. The result of it was reported to government, in our letter of 5th September 1807; and we had only further to observe, on this occasion, that it would be of important use, as a guide for a long time to come, not only to collectors, in regulating the operations of revenue detail, but also, to the local judicial authorities, in cases of civil adjudication.

160. From the comparative statement of the revenues of the Ceded Districts for Fuslies *1216 and 1217, as entered in the report above recited, the customs were altogether excluded, because their actual amount for the latter period, could not be ascertained until the expiration of the Fusly, and because the usual substitute for an estimate could not be supplied, the collector of Bellary having omitted to furnish the estimate for his particular division. [797]

Note. The value at which they were ceded was
S. Pags. ... 16,51,465.

The first year's jumma was S. Pags. 19,06,543.

Inclusive of Kurnoul, Pesh-cush, and last year's collections.

The sum of S. Pags 24,674. 26. 48. in the foregoing statement, for Fusly, 1210, is composed of remissions made to poligars, in consequence of events which took place before the introduction of the Company's government, and could not be prevented.

The sum of S. Pags. 8,158. 41. 4 remitted in Fusly 1206, was restored to renters, in consequence of the orders of government, after having been actually collected.

These sums, are therefore deducted from the total of remissions.

* 1806-7.

1807-8.