

ENCLOSURE.

A note on Invalid Establishment at Bhaugulpore (reference page 54—History text).

J. Talboys Wheeler in his Handbook to the Madras Records at paragraph 37 of page 13 mentions:—

“Revenue Department, Sundries, 15—Sanatorium at Bhaugulpore, 1773 to 1793—this volume contains the consultations, not of the Madras Government but of the Governor-General in Council, relative to certain healthy spots selected by the Collector of Bhaugulpore, for the use of invalid Native Officer and Sepoys. It contains a large number of observations and suggestions in the shape of letters, minutes and regulations, on a variety of details connected with the subject.”

It is peculiar that Bhagalpur records should find a place in the Madras Record Room. An unsuccessful attempt was made to trace the records in Patna or in Calcutta.

A reference was made to the Madras Record Office and it was found that Revenue Department, Sundries 15 was “wanting” there but the Curator informed that there were references to Bhagalpur in other volumes of the Revenue Sundries series. An investigation was made by the Editor by a personal visit to the Madras Record Office. With the time available as the District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur was at the last stage of printing only three volumes could be traced which contain information about Bhagalpur. They are Revenue Sundries series, Vol. nos. 9-A, 11-B, and 16. There are ample references to the Invalid Settlement at Bhagalpur in Sundries, Vol. no. 16. The documents make out a remarkable feature of the district in late eighteenth century and offer a subject for research particularly as to what happened to the land grants and the families. Apparently, the privileges were later extended to the European Invalids largely and this may account particularly for the large number of Europeans that the district (including Saharsa district then a part of Bhagalpur) had even in the interior till the beginning of the 20th century.

A summary of the detailed contents is given below:—

1. Proceedings of the Governor-General in Council in the Revenue Department of the 14th June, 1782 indicate that the Collector of Bhagalpur was directed to select some healthy spots within the districts for the use of Invalid Native Officers and Sepoys. It was stipulated that the Soobadar, Jamedar, Havildar, Naik and Sepoy will get 200, 100, 60, 50, 40 Begahas of land respectively. These lands were not to be resumed on the death of the invalids but should continue in their family at a

moderate fixed rent. The Collector was directed further to continue the pay of the invalids three years after they are given in possession of the land when it will be reduced to 1/3rd, in two years more another one third and another third to be paid for later.

2. The Minutes of Council dated 3rd June, 1783 made some changes and assigned 300 Begahas to Commandants and Risaldars, 200 Begahas to First Jamadar, 100 Begahas to Second Jamadar and so on. Troopers were given 40 Begahas.
3. Proceedings of the Governor-General in Council dated 9th May, 1788 made a very important document giving a picture of the study of the Native Invalid Establishment and it indicated checks for the payment of the men and Regulations for the European invalids. It suggested that henceforth no European N.C.O. Officer shall be transferred to the invalid establishment and they were to be divided into 4 independent companies, one of artillery and another of infantry. There will be an Assistant Surgeon and an European Adjutant.

Bhagalpur invalids were to be called for muster twice a year. Apparently a lot of abuses had already come in. It was ordered that no invalids shall in future be transferred to the Bhagalpore Establishment and the Commanding Officer shall look into the problems. The invalids fit for duty were to report to the Commanding Officer.

Many other restrictions were also imposed as to who should qualify for the privileges of being declared an invalid to get the stipulated advantages. It was ordered that no commissioned or non-commissioned Native Officer who had not served in that rank for at least three years should get that privilege. No native invalid was to receive any *Batta*. Of those who were not found fit for the assistant duty and to form a company at Monghyr will be transferred to Baghulpore Establishment.

4. A letter from Hutchinson to the Deputy General, dated 8th September, 1792, with a copy to the Collector of Bihar and Bhagalpore on the subject of the report in the Tannah Regulations runs from pages 27 to 45 of Revenue Sundries 1782—93, Vol. 16 of the Madras Record Office.

The document gives various suggestions to remodel the Bhagalpore Institution and to extend it to Bihar. By this time various problems had cropped up like the invalids in possession of such lands having died without

any heir or a widow of an invalid marrying again and got children from the second husband or the zamindar seizing the crops or the Jagheer of the invalid.

After making various suggestions Captain Hutchinson suggests that there will be a Regulating Officer and a Subaltern to help the Regulating Officer. Various suggestions of procedure and details for working the section were made. Mr. Grant, a Zamindar of Bhagalpur, had made certain proposals and Hutchinson supported them.

5. Letter from the Collector of Baghulpore to Cornwallis dated 20th September, 1792 acknowledging Captain Hutchinson's letter and giving his suggestions on the subject, runs from pages 53 to 108 of the same volume.

6. Letter from the Collector of Bihar to Cornwallis, dated 31st October 1790, submitting his observations runs from pages 108—135.

The matter had received a treatment from the Commander-in-Chief whose minute for the future regulations of the jagheerdar establishment runs from pages 135 to 235.

The resolution of the Governor-General in Council adopting the proposals submitted by the Commander-in-Chief and repeating that Tannah Regulations from pages 212 to 213 of the volume.

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