

1000  
N: 111 66

83

From

A. M. Reid, Esqre.,

Commissioner, Rajshahye Division,

To

The Under Secretary Government of  
Bengal.

Of Serajpore, September 4<sup>th</sup> 1860

Sir,

I have the honor to annex copy  
of a letter from the officiating Magistrate  
of Pubna, No. 502 of the 25<sup>th</sup> ult.  
(with enclosures) relative to the state of  
Indigo matters in his District up to that  
date.

2. The district had continued  
undisturbed by any actual resort to vio-  
-lence, and the greater part of the Indigo  
crop had been secured under the  
favourable attendant circumstances  
enumerated in Mr. Bainbridge's 3<sup>d</sup> para.  
This result is ascribed by the officiating  
Magistrate, in a great measure, to  
the tact, and knowledge of the native  
character, displayed by Deputy Mag-  
istrate

3



Magistrate Moolree Wusifooder, but I think it must also be attributed, in a great degree, to the judgment and unremitting energy evinced by Mr. Bainbridge himself in dealing with this difficult question.

It is to <sup>the</sup> next sowing season, now imminent, that the most earnest attention of the authorities must be directed. The ryots of most of the taluqs in Subna have expressed their determination not to sow any more Indigo, and where the Blawter is also Zemindar, they have now proceeded, in some parts, to attempt to avoid the punctual payment of their rents by offering to deposit them with the Collector. Their avowed reason is to avoid having to pay unauthorised cesses, but the real reason, I believe, is that they may be enabled to break off all connection whatsoever with the Factory.

The Magistrate reports that there is a very strong combination amongst the ryots to break off their connection with Indigo, and that one  
Mookesh



Mohesh Chunder Bundopadhyaya, an in-  
 -habitant of the Nuddea district, is  
 the prime mover in it. The ryots are  
 much excited, and, although perhaps, not  
 intentionally seeking to break the peace,  
 a breach of it, may, I concur with the  
 Magistrate in thinking, be brought on  
 about at any moment, by an acci-  
 -dental collision. Every endeavour must  
 be made to prevent this occurring, and  
 measures have been taken to bind down  
 Mohesh Chunder Bundopadhyaya, who, there  
 seem strong grounds to suppose, will  
 incite a rupture.

5 Mr. Hampton of Lalga-  
 -moodia has already been bound down,  
 together his Factory Naib. Mr. Hampton  
 is the manager of Mr. Kenny's fac-  
 -tories, the excitement in which is far  
 greater than elsewhere. He assured me  
 that it was his intention to abstain  
 most carefully from doing any thing  
 which might lead to a rupture. He ex-  
 -pressed a fear, at the same time, that,  
 not only would the factories, <sup>be</sup> closed, but  
 also that he would be unable to col-  
 -lect his rents, and that his estates would



be brought to the hammer. -

6. To reduce the excitement under which the ryots are labouring, the officiating Magistrate has proposed to issue for their information a proclamation to the effect of the enclosed draft in English. A written proclamation should, I think, be avoided, especially in the case of persons who are unable to read or write. Its meaning would probably be misinterpreted by designing persons - I am therefore opposed to the issue of a written proclamation - The purport of the one submitted seems however unobjectionable, and Mr. Bainbridge might take every opportunity of verbally explaining its purport to the ryots. -

7. With reference to the offg. Magistrate's 9<sup>th</sup> para., I would remark that no petition has reached me from Mr. Macleod - Mr. Roberts' letter to the Assistant Magistrate of Combercolly is enclosed. One to the like effect from that gentleman has, I believe, already been before the Government. Mr. Roberts is the manager of one of the largest concerns in Punjab, and whilst considering it



it to be his duty to bring to notice what appear to him to be the prospects of the Indigo Planters, it is very satisfactory to observe that he has stated it to be his decided intention not to proceed to force the sowings, but to rest satisfied with the redress which the Law will give him. His letter does not appear to me to require any further comment.

8 The question of the right of Messrs. Watson and Co. to eject the squatters from their Chur lands, and to sow Indigo in them (vide paras: 14 to 16 of the Magistrate's letter) is one of Law, which, if brought into Court, must be decided either under act X of 1859, or act IV of 1840, according to the particular circumstances of each case. Pending the decision, all that the Magistrate can do is to prevent any breach of the peace taking place.

9 The number of suits, recently instituted under act X of 1859, has been very large, and a still greater number may shortly be looked for. I would strongly support Mr. Bainbridge's application for an addition to his staff of Deputy Collectors. A proposition has already been submitted for investing the Moonsiff of Commercally with



powers to try such suits, and I would suggest that the Moonsiff of Khoosteah should be similarly vested, as also the Sudder Ameen of Pubna, and that an additional Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector should be appointed to the Sudder Station in aid of the Magistrate and Collector.

I have before submitted an application for a Government Assistant to be posted to Pubna, and shall be glad if one can be spared for the purpose. The additional aid specified will probably suffice. Should it be found insufficient a further application will be submitted hereafter.

I have the honor to be  
Yr<sup>ts</sup> H. M. Reid,  
Commissioner