

Appendix 1

Firman by the Emperor Aurangzeb (1669-1670)

"Translation of a Firman or Royal Mandate in Persian".

IN THE NAME OF THE MOST HIGH AND HOLY GOD

The exalted Firman of the Emperor ABDUL MUZUFFAR
MOHAMMAD MOHEDDIN ALAMGIR the Conqueror.

(SEAL)

Whereas there has come before the holy and glorious sight (of his Majesty) a petition from the possessor of generosity and excellence the servant (Khanazad) who is worthy of rewards and favours, the "Nazim" (or Governor) of the Subah of Ahmedabad dependent on Goojerat, (representing that the Mahal or district) of Mohammad Nagar, otherwise named Halud, containing one hundred and twelve villages, together with the salt pits, the revenue (of which is) Dams twenty five lacs and eight thousand Dams, was entirely assigned in accordance with the sanads of the former Rulers in Jagir to the ancestors of the Zamindar Rajput Jhala (namely), Jaswantsing (and his descendants) generation after generation without (fear of) obstruction (on the part) of (any) person and (without) the imposition of any condition and (or) conditions, and without (any) partnership with any other (person) and (as) up to this period the abovenamed Zamindar is the possessor and occupier (of the same) and (as) at this time (it is represented) that the abovementioned Mahal, together with the villages and the salt pits, was assigned in Jagir to Nazar Ali Khan by the Court of His Majesty and the Ruler of the World and (as) he (Nazar Ali Khan) receives every year the sum of twenty five thousand Rupees by virtue of holding the Jagir, and (as) the abovenamed (Jaswantsing) expects that by the grace and favour of the Emperor (the claim for) the abovementioned sum, may be rendered void the order of His Majesty, which must be acted upon, has attained the honour of manifestation as follows:—

In accordance with the representation of the Nazim of the Subah the "Mahal", together with the villages and the abovementioned salt pits, are to be recognized as having been given and delivered over the Jagir to the abovementioned Zamindar (and his descendants) generation after generation according to the ancient custom, without the partnership of any other person, and without (fear of) obstruction (in the part) of any condition and (or) conditions, (and the claim for) the abovementioned amount is to be considered as rendered void (Jaswantsing being free from responsibility for the same) in order that (he) the former expending the revenues thereof for his own (use), may perform as much as possible, the duties of well-wisher and (of taking) care (of the villages, &c) and the duties of loyalty and watchfulness. And he shall take care and keep the roads safe from (perpetration of) highway robbery. And he shall make an arrangement with regard to the rules and regulations of that place (in order) that all the subjects and the whole population may remain in safety and peace. It is necessary that the present and future Governors and Officers and Accountants and Jagirdars considering the abovementioned Mahal together with the abovementioned villages and the abovementioned salt pits as given to and confirmed in the possession and control of the former Jagirdar with his children and dependents, generation after generation, shall not demand Nazar Ali Khan's sum. And all suits with regard to deal-

ings (i.e. civil suits) and assaulting and beating (i.e. criminal matters) and other (matters) being referred to him (Jaswantsing, and officers, &c.) shall refrain from collecting the revenue from him). And they shall consider the Zamindar Rajput as the independent Jagirdar of that place without (his being in) partnership with any other person. And they shall neither change nor alter the same by any manner or means. And understanding that all demands of the Emperor and civil impositions are remitted and cancelled, they shall neither obstruct nor annoy him with regard to (demand payment of) the revenue received from the land (Malwajhat) and expenses (Akh-rajat) and in respect of all the old and new customary payments and allowances, and shall not interfere (with him) in any way. And they are to consider the abovementioned Jagirdar as possessing full authority (Mookhtar-e-kul). In this matter they are not every year to ask for a new Sanad or Parvanah. And should (any persons) at any other place have (any other writings etc.) they (the said officers, &c.) shall not rely (on the same). Written on the fifteenth day of Shawal, in the twenty-fourth year of His Majesty's reign."