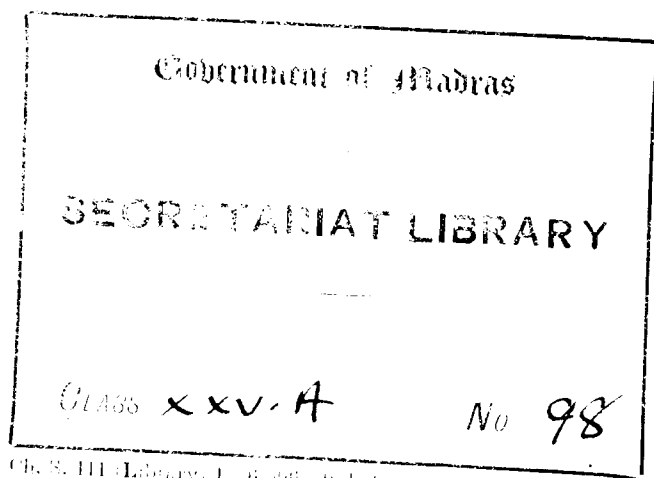


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PAPERS

RELATING TO THE

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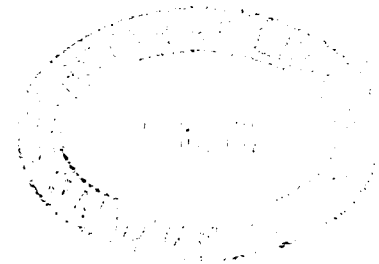
MADRAS PRESIDENCY.

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MADRAS:

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1859.

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MEMORANDUM.

No. 694.

History.

1. Although several species of the *Coffea* are indigenous in the wooded parts of the western coast, the earliest notice of a coffee plantation is contained in a curious letter (copy annexed) of the Abbé Dubois, mentioning the existence of a plantation in the Barramahal at Tripatoor, made by Colonel Read, about the year 1795. The garden did not succeed, and, to use the Abbé's words, "was suffered to perish."

2. In 1801, Dr. Buchanan, who was sent by the Marquis Wellesley to investigate the state of Agriculture in Mysore, Canara, and Malabar, remarks, (Vol. II, page 545) that he saw near Tellicherry "coffee trees in a very thriving condition, which may prove a valuable acquisition, but as yet they had not produced fruit."

3. For many years a large plantation has existed on the higher slopes of the Bababodan hills; the best berries are said to have come from Mocha.* The garden is attached to a Mahomedan place of worship.

4. In 1828, I understand that Major Deven introduced the Mocha seed from Anjarakandy to Mavontaddy, which seems to have been the beginning of the plantations in that vicinity.

5. In 1844, I became acquainted with two coffee planters in western Mysore, then commencing coffee cultivation as an experimental speculation; these adventures have proved successful, and a considerable number of Englishmen have followed their example, and settled along the line of the Ghats, chiefly in Nuggur, Coorg and Wynäid.

6. The number of European Colonists engaged in this branch of Agriculture, so far as I can learn, is nearly as follows:—

Mysore and Coorg.....	20
Wynäid	32
Shevaras.....	10
Neilgherries	10
Southern Ghats.....	8
	—
	80

* (Vide Wilks' Mysore.)

124981



Extent of available land.

7. There are other hills tracts suited for the growth of coffee; these are, I believe, extensive on the Pulney and Anamallay ranges, and limited in North Canara; perhaps also the plant will thrive in the Vindyan hills of the Northern Circars, but it has not been tried there. Coffee cultivation is also carried on to a considerable extent by natives, though seldom with equal care. I have met several Ceylon planters who came to inspect the locations on this side, and seemed to be much pleased with the prospects of the settlers as regards soil, climate, and cheap labour, but, so far as I could judge, they gave the preference to Ceylon solely from their obtaining lands in *fee simple*.

Variety of Tenures.

8. When a planter wishes to settle on the Neilgherry, Shevaroy, Pulney, or Anamallay Hills, I understand there is no difficulty in obtaining a vendible title, there, the land belongs to Government, and when there is a competition, as on the Neilgherry hills, it is put up to public auction after due notice; but in Malabar it is different, the tenures are obscure, and it is of the utmost importance to ascertain which is Government land? or who has the right to dispose of it to settlers?

9. In Malabar, what is called Jemm, or private proprietary right in the soil, has existed from the earliest period.

10. The Jemmakar's consent is necessary before his lands can be touched, and all titles are derived from him.

11. When the land comes under cultivation it is, *ipso facto*, liable to the Government Assessment, when the land is waste, it pays nothing.

12. The Jemmakar will not sell on any consideration except at the last extremity; he will mortgage to any extent according to his necessities. The question of obtaining a permanent title from the Jemmakar is a delicate one, attended with many difficulties.

Different rates of taxation.

13. There are different rates of taxation on Government lands.

On the Shevaroy Hills, the land tax is one rupee per acre for 30 years.

On the Neilgherry Hills it is the same, I believe.

In the territories of Mysore the land is free, but a considerable revenue is obtained by levying an export duty of 4 annas per maund of 28lb.

Reserved tracts of forests.

14. As coffee cultivation extends, it will be necessary to reserve assigned tracts of forests. These tracts should be selected with reference to the numbers of

Poon spars, or the amount of Teak and other valuable woods, and the proximity of water carriage. (Vide summary of Forest operations dated 1st May 1858, No. 337, Para. 34, head "Coffee.")

15. PERMANENT BOUNDARIES.—The importance of having all grants clearly defined is very great, perhaps deep trenches are the best boundaries, attention to this at first will prevent subsequent litigation, which has been very costly to the Government and the planters both in Wynnäd and Ceylon.

16. ROADS.—The opening up of the Wynnäd by the several roads recommended by Lord Harris, and the improvement of the Carcoor Ghât (in particular) would throw a great deal of fine timber into the market, and render essential service to the ship-builders on the Coast. It would also afford facilities for sending up produce to the Neilgherries and bringing down potatoes and would encourage the cultivation of articles which cannot now be carried. This Ghât would also open up a very wild part of country infested with destructive animals and smugglers. Practically there is no approach to the Hills from the westward for purposes of trade.

MYSOORE,

30th June 1859.

H. CLEGHORN, M.D.,

Conservator of Forests.

TO MAJOR WILKS,

Resident of Mysore.

SIR,

I was honored with your letter dated Oscuttah, 8th July, only three days ago, so that it must have been on the road more than two months. Conformably to your recommendation I made by this same tapaul applications to two friends of mine, the one a Missionary at Pondicherry, and the other exercising the same profession at Tranquebar, as those two gentlemen are acquainted with the most part of the men of colour living in those and neighbouring places; I mentioned to them the conditions to which you would wish to have any good man well acquainted with the

NOTE.—Since the commencement of 1856, the question of communication between the Coast and Ootacamund by the Beypoor river and the Carcoor ghât has been under the serious consideration of the Government. That an easy Bandy road is quite practicable, has been treated as a settled fact by all the Officers of the Engineers, and the late Government ordered the road to be opened out, but the work was suspended when all public works were stopped; the great matter now would be to keep the trace (one yard wide) clearly marked out to avoid the risk of obliteration.

12th. Rules and Regulations of the Association to be drawn up by the Committee and circulated, each Member to be furnished with a copy.

RULES FOR GENERAL MEETINGS.

1st. Any Member who has a proposition to bring before the General Meeting, or an important statement to lay before the Association by word or by letter, shall intimate the same to the Secretary at a previous Meeting, in order that he may thus be enabled to arrange the subject to be discussed in due order as a guide for the information of the Chairman.

2nd. If the Member is unable to attend the Meeting, the Secretary will announce his proposals or statements in due course.

3rd. The motion having been seconded, if any Member wishes to reply or move an amendment he must first obtain the permission of the Chairman. Should the discussion be unduly prolonged, the Chairman, at his own discretion, or by general request, will put the question to the vote.

4th. If any Member, through unforeseen circumstances, shall have an important question to lay before the Association of which he has been unable to give due notice, he shall at the close of the proceedings, with the Chairman's permission, be allowed to bring the subject forward.

Seconded by C. Y. REED, and passed.

It was then moved by W. RICHMOND, Esq., that the following Officers be appointed to act for the year.

J. F. FERGUSON, Esq., *Chairman*.

T. MACHELL, Esq., *Secretary*.

Also that a Committee of nine Members be now appointed, with leave to add to the number, to consist of the following gentlemen, *viz.*:

For Culpatty District.—Messrs. P. O. LOUGHLIN, M. RIMINGTON, and W. R. BOOKEY.

Manantoddy District.—Messrs. R. A. BECHER, W. RICHMOND, A. C. BARNES, and C. Y. REED.

Seconded by P. O. LOUGHLIN, Esq., passed.

Moved by C. Y. REED, Esq.

Seconded by C. MARSHALL, Esq.

That the Committee be requested to draw up a Memorial to

Government (embodying the number of acres of coffee under cultivation, together with the amount of past year's crop), showing that coffee lands cannot, for the present, bear a heavy tax.

Passed.

Proposed by R. A. BECHER, Esq.

Seconded by H. COOMBS, Esq.

That the Committee be requested to represent to the Government, the necessity of compelling owners of lands to send in a list of their properties and titles for the purpose of forming a land registry in Western India.

Passed.

It was then agreed that a General Meeting should be held at Manantoddy on the 3rd of April, to consider the Memorial to Government on land tax, and transact business.

(Signed) M. RIMINGTON,

Chairman of Meeting.

PROCEEDINGS OF A PUBLIC MEETING, HELD AT MANANTODDY, APRIL 3RD, 1857.

J. F. FERGUSON, *in the Chair*.

The Chairman expressed his thanks to the Association for the honor conferred by his election as Chairman of the Planter's Association, and his regret that some Planter better known, and of longer standing, had not been appointed. However, he trusted, by earnestness in the cause, and assiduity to the business of the Association, to make good those deficiencies.

The Secretary then read the following Memorial to LORD HARRIS, for the adoption of the Meeting.

MEMORIAL

TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE LORD HARRIS,

Governor in Council, Fort St. George.

The Memorial of the Planters' Association of Western India.

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH,

That your Memorialists have seen with deep concern, in an abstract of the published Records of Government, bearing date 14th

November 1856, that it is in contemplation to levy a tax of one Rupee per acre on the lands taken by Europeans for the cultivation of coffee, in the Collectorate of Malabar.

That your Memorialists personally, or as the representatives of absentee proprietors, are very largely interested in the welfare of this district, particularly on those questions touching possession of their lands, and validity of their title deeds, their property being principally obtained from Natives of the country, the purchase of which has not only cost them large sums of money, but upon which they have expended still larger sums in cultivation, involving, in most cases, their whole worldly dependence. Your Lordship must be fully aware of the incalculable advantages which must arise from the influx of European capital and industry into this country. That the cultivation of coffee has hitherto been anything but a remunerative investment, is evident from the number of abandoned plantations throughout the district. The cultivation of the plant is only now beginning to be understood, and the fact that there is at this time some 5,400 acres^{*} of land under this cultivation in Malabar, in the hands of Europeans, while new estates are yearly being opened up, and old ones extended; that Native cultivation is rapidly extending, while at the same time fresh capital ready to be embarked is only waiting the decision of Government with regard to the proposed tax, must be evidence calculated to convince your Lordship that coffee must, ere long, take a very prominent position in the exports from this part of India.

But your Memorialists would here more particularly wish to urge upon your Lordship the fact that coffee cannot afford to pay this tax of one Rupee per acre on all lands, whether cultivated or otherwise, (or as the Collector of the district has led us to suppose, that from three to four Rupees on each cultivated acre is contemplated), inasmuch as our lands are chiefly purchased from *Natives*, as was above stated, and in many cases have to be partially paid for again, owing to the intricacies of the rules with reference to the tenure of lands in Malabar.

The public roads are in a most deplorable state, frequently impassable for days together. We may instance the district of Vithery, situated between Culpatty and the head of the Tambercherry ghaut, containing some twelve plantations, representing 1,666 acres of coffee under cultivation. The road and ghaut from this district to Calicut on the one side, is nearly impassable during the monsoon. The nearest town, Manantoddy, on the other side, distant 25 miles, and from which

alone can be obtained the necessaries of life, has a road cut and bridged only half the distance, the remainder being a mere track, also impassable during the monsoon.

The only means of transport is the pack bullock, which takes days and weeks to reach its destination, during which time our produce is greatly deteriorated in value, from pilfering on the road and exposure to the weather, being laid in heaps on the ground at night.

We beg to draw your attention to the small amount of produce realised on plantations in general; for instance, last year's average yield of marketable coffee,^{*} has not exceeded 3 cwts. per acre; while, on the Coast, we have an ad valorem duty of 3 Rupees on 50 Rupees, the customs valuation on a candy of 560 lbs., and that although for many years this duty has been levied, up to the present time no public work has been executed which would not have been undertaken had no coffee estates existed in Malabar.

The want of an efficient and well regulated Police exposes ourselves and properties to great depredations: many cases of theft and misdemeanour being overlooked, from the distance parties have to travel to obtain redress.

In conclusion, we would beg to impress upon your Lordship, the discouragement to the investment of capital caused by the great difficulty of obtaining legal titles to land, and the almost impossibility of discovering a legal owner.

If your Memorialists might presume to suggest that a Commission be formed to enquire into the validity of claims to land, and when found of a proper nature, that a certificate be granted to that effect, compelling the owners to register the same, and that any future MORTGAGE, DEED, LEASE, or BOND may undergo the same process.

And your memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

(Signed) J. F. FERGUSSON,

Chairman.

The adoption of this Memorial moved by M. RIMINGTON, Esq., seconded by W. KENNEDY, Esq.

Passed.

Moved by M. RIMINGTON, Esq.

Seconded by P. O. LOUGHLIN, Esq.

^{*} Improving under present cultivation.

^{*} Now about 10,000 acres Europeans, 2,000 Natives.

That the Honorary Secretary be requested to communicate by letter with the Collector of the district, and bring to his notice the state of the roads between Panamarrum and the head of Tambercherry pass, praying him to give the matter his earnest and best consideration. as, from the present state of the Tambercherry pass (it being nearly impassable during the monsoon), it is now more than ever necessary that the road from the head of the ghaut to Manantoddy should be put into a proper state of repair, and made a good bandy road, in order that the estates along Vithery and in that district, may be enabled to get their necessary supplies from that town.

An estimate has been made of the cost of putting this road in repair by two Members of the Committee for Vithery, who report that the road from Manantoddy to Panamarrum is in pretty good repair; the bridges only require some small repairs; and that 50 Rupees per mile would be sufficient to make the road from Panamarrum to the head of the ghaut a good bandy road.

Passed.

Moved by W. BOOKEY, Esq.

Seconded by A. VERNON, Esq.

That for the future all new Members of the Association shall be balloted for.

This Resolution led to a long discussion as to the admission of proxies,* when

Mr. C. MARSHALL, moved

That the question be put to the Meeting whether proxies be allowed or not?

This was seconded by W. BOOKEY, Esq.

The Chairman put the question, when the non-admission of proxies was carried by a large majority. The Chairman then put the original motion, which was carried also.†

Moved by C. Y. REED, Esq.

Seconded by A. VERNON, Esq.

That the Rules of the Association be modified so as to admit 3 Members of the Committee instead of 5 forming a quorum.

Passed.

Moved by P. O. LOUGHLIN, Esq.

Seconded by W. KENNEDY, Esq.

* Since cancelled.

† Since cancelled.

That this Association pledges itself to discountenance any system of crimping coolies and will oppose the same with all their influence.

Passed.

2nd. That Messrs. PARRY and Co., be written to by the Secretary, requesting the use of their bungalows at Manantoddy for the Association, till their funds are adequate to the erection of a suitable building.

Passed.

(Signed) J. F. FERGUSON,

Chairman.

PROCEEDINGS OF A COMMITTEE MEETING, HELD AT MANANTODDY, JUNE 3rd. 1857.

Present.

W. RICHMOND, Esq., *in the Chair.*

W. BOOKEY, Esq.
A. C. BARNES, Esq.

R. A. BECHER, Esq.
C. Y. REED, Esq.

T. MACHELL, Esq., *Honorary Secretary.*

Read Proceedings of last Meeting, which were approved of.

1st. Read a letter from Mr. FERGUSON, regretting that illness prevented his attendance.

2nd. Read a letter from the Collector of Malabar, forwarding an Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, (No. 294, D. P. W.) dated 10th February 1857, on the subject of a good road up the Tambercherry pass. The Chief Engineer estimates the expense of the pass itself at Rupees 32,000,* and for the road above and below 12,000 Rupees, 4,000 Rupees to make up for omissions. He also states that the line of ghaut will need to be materially altered.

That the planters have offered to contribute 12,000 Rupees towards the cost, or submit to a toll. The Government prefer that the latter plan be adopted, and that the Civil Engineer of the district be requested to prepare and forward a Report, Survey, and Estimate

* And then even a bad line

on the Tambercherry pass, together with a matured scheme for the Collection of a toll.

4th. Read the following letter from J. WELLS, Esq.

To J. F. FERGUSSON, Esq.

Chairman, P. A. W. I.

SIR,

I beg to call your attention to the position in which Masters are now placed in reference to their servants and labourers, with a view to your laying the matter before Government.

In 1854 a Memorial was signed and forwarded to Government on this subject, praying that a Legislative Enactment be passed, by which, if servants or labourers misbehaved, or left their work without due notice being first given, they might be taken before a Magistrate and punished; also that when advances were made to labourers, if they refused to work the advance out, the Magistrate be invested with power to punish.

As the law now stands, the Masters' only remedy is a civil suit, which is virtually a denial of justice.

At the Presidencies, Magistrates have power to punish servants who leave their Masters without first giving due warning.

In Ceylon, also, the Magistrates have power invested in them to punish labourers who desert before their time of service expires, or those who misbehave, the same being the case in England.

Under the present Legislative Enactment, there is no protection for a Master, and I think the present a most favourable opportunity of bringing the subject before Government. If a Memorial be drawn up, I am sure that all the Merchants on the Coast will sign it, as they did the former one, which was also backed by all the Mercantile houses in Madras.

I am, Sir, Your obedient servant,

(Signed) JOHN WELLS.

Resolved, that the thanks of the Meeting be given to Mr. WELLS for his letter.

5th. Read a letter from Mr. BARNES, giving an instance of the loss and inconvenience to which he had been put, in a vain attempt to recover money advanced to labourers who had absconded, by instituting a civil suit.

After some conversation on the subject of these letters, it was determined to hold them over for further consideration, and in the mean-

time, that the Secretary be instructed to write to the Collector of Malabar to ascertain whether he is able to assist the planters or not, and if so, how far he is disposed to recommend our wishes to Government.

The Secretary was requested to procure the Regulations of the Ceylon Government on this subject for information of the Committee. Cattle trespass, and the loss suffered thereby, was then brought to the notice of the Meeting, and it was agreed that this also should form part of the subject of the Secretary's letter to the Collector of Malabar, and the Act relating to it procured from Madras.

BAZAAR WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

The Secretary directed to bring to the notice of the authorities, the loose system which has crept into use in Wynaad, *viz.*, using pieces of stone, old iron, et cetera, of no reliable weight, in retailing goods in the bazaars, also the seer measures usually much short of the standard.

It was then proposed that an Address should be drawn up, giving a brief detail of the objects of the Association, in order to induce all persons interested in coffee and other branches of agricultural pursuits to join the Association.

BENGAL PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.

Proposed, that the proceedings of the above Association be circulated, together with the Government papers relative to the settlement of Europeans in India, and that the Secretary shall put himself in communication with the B. P. A.

(Signed) W. RICHMOND,

Chairman of Meeting.

PROCEEDINGS OF A GENERAL MEETING, HELD AT MANANTODDY, JULY 8TH, 1857.

Present.

W. RICHMOND, Esq., *in the Chair.*

R. A. BECHER, Esq.
W. R. BOOKEY, Esq.
A. C. BARNES, Esq.
J. G. GLASSON, Esq.
B. HUXHAM, Esq.
W. BROWN, Esq.
C. MARSHALL, Esq.

P. O. LOUGHLIN, Esq.
W. RICHMOND, Esq.
C. Y. REED, Esq.
M. RIMINGTON, Esq.
F. RICHMOND, Esq.,
and the
HONORARY SECRETARY.

The following Report from the Committee was read to the Meeting by the Secretary.

GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with your desire, a General Meeting has been duly summoned, to consider the result of the Memorial against the tax on coffee land, which was forwarded to Government, and what steps should now be taken by the Association for the forwarding of a new Memorial to Government.

The Memorial recently sent has been returned to Mr. FERGUSON, our Chairman, with the following endorsement.

Received 27th May, 1857

Registered No. 9.

Mr. FERGUSON is informed that the matter of the assessment of coffee land in Wynaad is still under consideration.

The attention of the Collector will be called to his representations with reference to the state of the roads.

By order,

(Signed) H. NORMAN,

Depy. Secy. to Govt.

This shows our wishes are under due consideration; and we may further remind you, that as soon as the District Engineer can submit his estimates, the Government has expressed an intention of improving and extending the roads of Wynaad.

The second question is, the difficulties attending the transfer of land, and the insecurity of titles, and as these are difficulties affecting all India, it may be advisable to consult with our Bengal friends on the subject before we take any step towards laying them before the Legislative Council.

We ought, also, request the appointment of an English Civil Officer to Wynaad; at all events, we might address the Commissioner of Official Salaries on the subject.

With regard to the manner in which our Memorial was returned to our Chairman, we believe there has been some feeling of irritation and annoyance, but we note that there is nothing in the endorsement to excite such a feeling, and if the Sub Police Officer chose to send it in without an envelope, the blame must rest with him, and we can only hope that the Native Officers will be taught better manners for the future.

In conclusion, we call your attention to the following letter on the subject.

No. 2093.

CALICUT, 29th June. 1857

To T. MACHELL, Esq.,

SIR,

Wynaad.

Mr. GLASSON has just brought to my notice that your address, with the endorsement of Government thereon, was returned to you without a cover to your address. If such was the case it occurred through an oversight on the part of the Wynaad Tassildar, for which I hasten to apologise.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) W. ROBINSON.

With regard to the drafting of a new Memorial, which we have this day met to consider, we would observe, that now, whilst all India is in a state of alarm and excitement, whilst there is reason to fear the natives of the country are in a measure disaffected, and the Bengal Army in open rebellion, it would well beseem us, as a public body, to suspend for a time our agitation for the remedy of minor grievances, and to come forward as loyal gentlemen with some evidence of our desire to contribute, so far as in our power, with heart and hand, to the support and defence of the State, in this or any other time of danger or alarm.

In accordance with this view, we have drawn up the following letter to Lord HARRIS, which we venture to submit for your sanction and approval.

TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE LORD HARRIS,

MY LORD,

It is with deep concern we have read of the Mutinies and Rebellion in Bengal, and that the alarm and excitement has extended even to this Presidency. As a public body, chiefly consisting of young and active men, many of whom have seen service in various parts of the world, we are desirous of informing you that we are ready, at any moment, to form ourselves into a Rifle Corps, to assist in protecting the Collector of Malabar, should such a measure be deemed advisable, in order to show that every European in the country is ready to unite for the

support of the State and the maintenance of law and order in this or any other time of danger of alarm.

Signed for the Committee.

J. F. FERGUSON.

Proposed by Mr. B. HUXHAM.

Seconded by Mr. J. G. GLASSON.

That a Memorial be at once addressed to the Home Government, representing the present state of Wynaād, and the wants of the English settlers in the district.

The Chairman begged to remind the Meeting that the local Government had promised to take the subject of their first Memorial into consideration, and that, consequently, it would be advisable to allow some time for the local Government to act.

It was then proposed as an amendment by Mr. RIMINGTON.

Seconded by Mr. C. Y. REED.

That for the present we wait the movements of the local Government, and, in the meanwhile, supply the Secretary with every item of information, in order that he may draw up a full and clear report of the present state of the country, which may serve as a guide in future operations. Carried by a large majority.

Proposed by Mr. P. O. LOUGHLIN.

Seconded by Mr. R. A. BECHER.

That the Address to the Right Honorable the Governor of Madras be forwarded through the Collector of Malabar.

Carried.

Proposed by Mr. R. A. BECHER.

Seconded by Mr. P. O. LOUGHLIN.

That a letter be addressed to the Commissioner of Official salaries on the subject of appointing an English Covenanted Officer in the District of Wynaād as desired by the Committee.

Passed.

Proposed by Mr. A. C. BARNES.

Seconded by Mr. J. G. GLASSON.

That voting for the admission of Members by ballot be abolished, the ballot only applying to the election of the Committee at the Annual General Meeting. That in future Members be admitted after being proposed and seconded by two Members of the Association.

2nd. That the expression of the opinion of any Member on a given subject, or question affecting the public interests, be recorded as his vote.

Passed.

The thanks of the Meeting having been given to the acting Chairman, the Meeting broke up.

(Signed) W. RICHMOND,

Chairman of Meeting.

PROCEEDINGS OF A GENERAL MEETING, HELD AT MANANTODDY, ON AUGUST 5th, 1857.

Members present.

-----*Chairman.*

P. O. LOUGHLIN, Esq.

W. RICHMOND, Esq.

C. YOUNG, Esq.

C. MARSHALL, Esq.

R. A. BECHER, Esq.

F. RICHMOND, Esq.

A. C. BARNES, Esq.,

and the

HONORARY SECRETARY.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Malabar, enclosing Correspondence in reference to the address of the Association offering their services to Government as a Volunteer Rifle Corps.

CALICUT, 31st July, 1857

No. 3038.
1857.

To T. MACHELL, Esq.,

Hony. Secy. Planter's Association.

SIR,

In transmitting for circulation a copy of the Extract Minutes of Council, 22nd instant, I have the honor to add that I shall be glad to hear from you at your earliest convenience on the subject of the organization and equipment of the Volunteer Rifle Corps.

An extra copy of the Minutes of Council is sent, with a view to expedite circulation, and the Thassildar has been directed to send to you three peons to facilitate communication.

I have the honor to be, &c. &c.

(Signed) W. ROBINSON.

CORRESPONDENCE.

No. 93.

CALICUT, 13th July, 1857.

TO THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

Fort St. George.

SIR,

I have the honor to give cover to the accompanying address to the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, signed by Mr. FERGUSON, of Culli, in Wynaād, on behalf of a body of European Planters who are

associated under the name of the Planters' Association of Western India. Should the peace of the country be threatened, their aid might be useful, as their intentions are good.

I have the honor to be,

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,
Acting Collector.

To T. MACHELL, Esq.,
For information.

No. 991.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, under date 15th July 1857.

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of Malabar.

Submits an address to the Right Honorable
the Governor of Madras from the P. A. W. }
1. offering their services should the peace } Here enter 13th July 1857.
of the country be threatened.

The Acting Collector of Malabar forwards a letter from the Honorary Secretary to the Planters' Association of Western India, giving cover to an address to the Right Honorable the Governor, signed by Mr. FERGUSSON, of Culli, in Wynaad, on behalf of that body, who offer their services to the Government in the maintenance of law and order, should the peace of the country be threatened.

2nd. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council has had the highest satisfaction in receiving this loyal address. The Members of the Association, he observes, propose, should events render it desirable, to enrol themselves as a Rifle Corps, under the direction of the officer Commanding Manantoddy.

3rd. His Lordship in Council accepts this offer, and highly appreciates the practical nature of this suggestion. The gentlemen, it appears, are well qualified to render valuable aid, and many of them, it is stated, have already seen service in various parts of the world.

4th. The Acting Collector will convey to the Honorary Secretary, for the information of the Association, an assurance of the gratification Government have derived from the patriotic address under notice, and take measures for the organization and equipment of the Volunteer Rifle Corps.

True Extract.

(Signed) E. MALTBY,
Acting Chief Secretary.

TO THE ACTING COLLECTOR OF MALABAR.

After some discussion, the following letter was drawn up for transmission to the Collector.

MANANTODDY, 4th August, 1857.

TO THE COLLECTOR OF MALABAR,

SIR,

In consequence of the temporary departure of the Chairman of the Planters' Association, a hasty Meeting took place at Manantoddy to consider what would be the most desirable arrangement to make, respecting the equipment of the Volunteer Rifle Corps. The uniform of the Madras Volunteers being objected to, it was generally agreed, that a grey tunic, grey trowsers, and leather helmet, with black patent leather belts, such as are worn by Light Infantry Corps, was more suitable. With regard to arms, we left that to Lieut. WEST, as we hope that, acquainted as he is with us all, and with the country, he will continue our Commandant after his detachment is recalled; he recommends a Revolver and a Cavalry Sabre, and for our followers, Carbines or Light Infantry Fusils.

Enclosed are the names of those Gentlemen who have already enrolled themselves, and the list is still in circulation; when all have joined, we hope to muster 30 Europeans, and twice as many trusty followers.

NAMES.

MESSRS. J. F. FERGUSSON,
A. C. BARNES,
W. RICHMOND,
C. YOUNG,
C. MARSHALL,
KENNEY,
G. LONGE,
J. G. GLASSON,
M. RIMINGTON,
BOOSEY,

MESSRS. H. M. MORLEY,
B. HUXHAM,
F. RICHMOND,
A. BROWN,
P. O. LOUGHLIN,
R. A. BECHER,
T. MACHELL,
C. Y. REED,
A. VERNON,
W. BOOKEY.

I have the honor to be,

Yours most obediently,

(Signed) T. MACHELL,
Honorary Secretary.

The Honorary Secretary then intimated to the Meeting that as he was about to leave Wynaud, and proceed to Bengal, he must resign the post he had heretofore held.

The Chairman expressed his regret that circumstances should deprive the Association of the valuable services of Mr. MACHELL, and begged to propose the best thanks of the Meeting for his untiring exertions in behalf of the Planters of Wynaud,

Passed unanimously.

On the motion of R. A. BECHER, Esq., A. C. BARNES was unanimously elected Honorary Secretary.

The Meeting then broke up.

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING, HELD AT MANANTODDY, SEPTEMBER 4TH, 1857.

C. Y. REED, Esq., *Chairman of Meeting.*

The Secretary read a letter from the Acting Collector of Malabar, requesting early information as to the quantity of Carbines and Sabres likely to be required for the use of the Volunteer Rifle Corps.

Drafted a letter in reply indenting for 50 of each, half for immediate use, the remainder as a reserve. Also, for the increased efficiency of the Corps, the Collector was requested to use his influence to procure Revolver Pistols.

Proposed by M. RIMINGTON, Esq.

Seconded by C. MARSHALL, Esq.

That the Secretary write from the Meeting to the Officer Commanding at Manantoddy, requesting to know if he had received any orders from Government, directing him to take command of the Volunteer Rifle Corps.

Read Captain WEST's letter in reply, stating that, although he had been written to by the Collector regarding the arms and accoutrements, he had not as yet received any official orders to take command of the Corps.

The Secretary was requested to forward copy of this Correspondence to the Collector, requesting to know if he had received any official information on the subject.

M. RIMINGTON, Esq., proposed.

1st. That a letter be written by the Honorary Secretary to the Shevaroy Planters, forwarding them a copy of the rules for the constitution of the Association, and soliciting them to join us.

2nd. That certain rules for the guidance of General Meetings be adopted.

These rules have appeared in printed form.

3rd. That the Honorary Secretary be empowered to have the rules of the Association immediately printed and circulated among the Members.

Seconded by W. RICHMOND, Esq.

Passed.

Proposed by R. A. BECHER, Esq.

Seconded by A. C. BARNES, Esq.

That a letter of thanks be addressed to Mr. MACHELL for his zealous services while Honorary Secretary.

Passed—Nem. Con.

Read a letter from the Acting Secretary of the Bengal Indigo Planters' Association, expressing the satisfaction of the Committee of that body at the formation of our Association, and their cordial acceptance of the friendly alliance proposed. Also enclosing bills of lading of a package containing sundry pamphlets and minutes of their proceedings for circulation among our Members.

Honorary Secretary requested to write to the Secretary of the Bengal Association, conveying the thanks of the Committee for their kind attention.

A vote of thanks having been passed to the Chairman for his conduct in the Chair, the proceedings terminated.

(Signed) C. Y. REED,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE MEETING, HELD AT MANANTODDY PUBLIC BUNGALOW, OCTOBER 5TH, 1857.

Present.

R. A. BECHER, Esq.,—*Chairman.*

C. Y. REED, Esq.

W. RICHMOND, Esq.

M. RIMINGTON, Esq.

A. C. BARNES, Esq. *Secretary.*

The business of the day being the election of a Commandant and Adjutant of the Volunteer Rifle Corps, some discussion took place as to the most eligible mode of election : when it was

Proposed by W. RICHMOND, Esq.
Seconded by C. Y. REED, Esq.

That the Secretary address every Member of the Corps, requesting him to send in the name of the person he wishes to be appointed as Commandant of the Rifle Corps, on or before the 15th instant, upon which day a Committee Meeting of the Association will take place, for the purpose of scrutinizing the votes and declaring the person elected.

The Committee would beg to suggest the names of Messrs. REED and RIMINGTON, either of whom they consider highly eligible for the post. Passed.

Received a letter from Captain WEST, Officer Commanding at Manantoddy, requesting to know if, when the Members of the Rifle Corps expressed a wish that the Officer Commanding at Manantoddy should take command of that Corps, they meant him, Captain WEST, personally, and not any Commanding Officer for the time being.

Secretary directed to reply, on behalf of the Meeting, that they were under the impression that the Volunteers alluded to him personally, and that they doubtless still held the same view.

After some discussion on minor points, the proceedings were concluded.

(Signed) R. A. BECHER,
Chairman of Meeting.

ABSTRACT OF A COMMITTEE MEETING, HELD AT VITHIERY, ON 8th DECEMBER 1857.

J. F. FERGUSON, Esq.—*Chairman.*

C. Y. REED, Esq.

P. O. LOUGHLIN, Esq.

W. R. BOOKEY, Esq.

and the

HONORARY SECRETARY.

The Secretary read the following Report on Labour, from H. M. MERLEY, Esq., Cooly Agent in Mysore, for certain plantations in Wynaud.

Report on the state of the Cooly Market in Mysore Country, and the probability of sufficiency of labour being extracted from thence to meet the requirements of the Wynaud Coffee Planters.

Having lately made a circuit of about 150 miles to the north of Mysore, I have had an opportunity of witnessing the number of villages by which that part of the country is studded, also an opportunity

of judging the number of individuals by which they were inhabited; a most important point, for it must be borne in mind that on the surplus labour of Mysore alone we are depending for that supply which to us is so important. I have, then, no hesitation in saying, that at least from five to six thousand coolies could be procured, and that supply continuously kept up, if proper means were adopted. I do not know that what I am about to suggest would answer, or be adopted by the Planters, but as a sufficient supply of labour throughout the year is of such vital importance to the cultivation of estates, some measures should be taken to endeavour to secure so desirable an end, and I would suggest a plan for carrying out this object.

The Mysore Country being comparatively flat, studded over, with high hills, and conspicuous localities, I would propose that sheds be erected here and there in the neighbourhood of large and thickly populated villages, as a sort of rendezvous, and rest houses to be built as near a bazaar and water as possible, the latter indispensable.

At the present period (December) I should say that two-thirds of the crop are standing, raggee being the only crop that I observed cut to any extent, consequently, labour would be required for harvesting these crops, after which I should suppose a considerable amount of labour would be available and anxious for employment.

But it is not solely in this way I have made my estimates of the number of coolies available, as the supply, under such circumstances, would be temporary; but I calculate that at any season of the year each village could afford to dispense with a certain per-centage of its inhabitants for the purpose of foreign labour. According to the extent of work, so is the amount of machinery required and determined, and to collect a large amount of labour within a reasonable time, and to keep that up to a certain mark, no single individual could do it so as to make the advances personally to each cooly, until they are brought to head quarters. Supposing head quarters to be central, the first advance is made at the respective villages, and on arrival at head quarters a further small advance is made to enable them to reach the plantations.

On arrival at head quarters each cooly is personally interrogated, in presence of the Duffadar who brought him, as to what advance he has received. The second advance is then made, and each cooly's name, with the Talook and Amshoom to which he belongs, and total amount of advance received, is then registered in a book.

I understand that the rate paid by the ryot or cultivator to his coolies is one anna per diem, but then they are allowed to work as they

please, similar to the ryot in Wynaud; for although planters pay their $2\frac{1}{2}$ and 3 annas per diem, I do not suppose there is a Nair or ryot in Wynaud whose labour for cultivating his paddy fields, &c., ever costs him so much as one Anna per diem. At Munzerabad, and on the Neilgherries, labourers are paid (Rs. 5) per mensem, and I now hold an order for 100 coolies from Rs. 5 to 5-10 per mensem, and 2 Annas per diem or Rs. 4 per mensem for women. As far as I have been able to judge from personal notice, I have no hesitation in saying Mysore can supply Wynaud with labour.

Roads.—The roads I have passed over to the north of Mysore are good. To the south, that is, from Mysore to Manantoddy, they are bad; very bad in some places. From Mysore to Chettenbully, Humpapoor, and Anta Senta, the road may be repaired at no great outlay. From Anta Senta to Carkencotta, and especially from the latter place to Bowally, the road is bad, and there are several bad nullahs to cross, but these might be bridged over at trifling cost by diverging a little to the right or left.

I should estimate the cost of repairing the road from Mysore to Bowally at 1,000 Rupees.

The Mysore Government, deriving, as it does, considerable benefit from the large amount of money annually thrown into the Mysore Country from the employment of its surplus labour by the Coffee Planters of Wynaud, should not hesitate to put this road into a good state of repair.

(Signed) H. M. MORLEY.

Resolved, that the thanks of the Committee be conveyed to Mr. Morley for his interesting report.

Resolved, that the local Committee direct their attention to the state of main and cross communication, in their several districts, and report upon the same as early as possible.

The Chairman brought to the notice of the Meeting a case of alleged grievance suffered by Mr. Glasson at the hands of the Collector of Malabar.

The Committee felt that it would be undesirable to engage the Association in matters of a private nature, and advised Mr. GLASSON to adopt the Collector's suggestion and appeal for redress to a Civil Court.

It was then moved and seconded that the Honorary Secretary address a letter to the Acting Collector of Malabar, suggesting, that ferry boats be substituted for jangdars on the rivers of the main line of road in the district of Wynaud.

2nd. That the Collector be written to, representing the loss and litigation Planters and others are put to, owing to the want of an enforced registration of title to land in Wynaud.

After the admission of some new Members the proceedings terminated.

(Signed) J. F. FERGUSSON,
Chairman.

PROCEEDINGS OF A COMMITTEE MEETING, HELD AT VITHERY, JANUARY 12th, 1858.

Present.

Chairman.

MESSRS. W. BOOKEY,
C. Y. REED,
W. RICHMOND,

MESSRS. R. A. BECHER,
P. O. LOUGHLIN,
A. C. BARNES, *Honorary Secretary.*

Read the proceedings of last Committee Meeting.

The Secretary read the following letter addressed by him to the Acting Collector, with the reply thereto.

December 10th, 1857.

To W. ROBINSON, Esq.

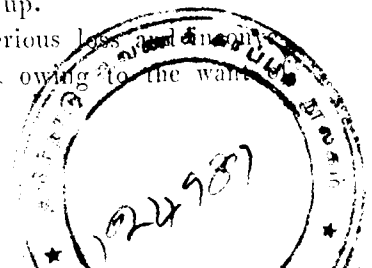
SIR,

A Meeting of the Committee of the Planters' Association was held at Vithery on the 8th Instant, at which it was determined the local Committees should direct their attention to roads in their several districts, and report on the same as soon as possible.

I have been requested to address you on the subject of accommodation for crossing the several rivers on the main lines of road in this district, and to suggest that boats be substituted in 1858, for the present dangerous continuance of jangdars.

The cost of these boats would be considerably more than jangdars, but it must be calculated that, with care, they will last ten years, and the local Government might levy a toll on all horses or cattle crossing, which would defray the extra cost of keeping up.

I have also to bring to your notice the serious loss and inconvenience experienced by settlers of this district, owing to the want



some law enforcing the registration of titles to land. I need scarcely dwell on the difficulties and doubts surrounding purchasers, and the consequent obstruction to the investment of capital, on which our future progress so much depends.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Signed) A. C. BARNES,

Honorary Secretary.

REPLY.

MALABAR, COLLECTOR'S OFFICE,
ON CIRCUIT COROTHIE, 13th Dec. 1857.

To A. C. BARNES, Esq.

Honorary Secretary, Planters' Association.

SIR,

With reference to your letter, I shall be glad to receive copies of the report of your local Committees on the subject of your district roads.

With regard to ferry accommodation, I fear very little can be done at present. The ferries, such as they are, are a source of annual expense in Wynaud. This Talook has, therefore, no claims on the local funds, on which it is a heavy burden. However, if you will indicate one or two which claim special attention, I will see what can be done. I have had an estimate prepared for bridging the Manantoddy river, but was obliged to abandon it as too expensive (14,600 Rs.)

Lieutenant TESSNER will, however, examine the subject carefully.

As regards the toll you propose; I doubt, from the experience we have already had, whether any single ferry in Wynaud would pay for the improved and more expensive convenience; most of the rivers are impassable only during the heavy rains, when traffic is very limited, there is not one ferry which can be termed a "clear six month's ferry." The effective maintenance of such casual ferries is most difficult and irksome even where ferries pay; in Wynaud the difficulties will be very much greater, and I fear the prospect of their paying is still distant. We must go to the expense of gradually bridging the nullahs and rivers.

I have anticipated your wish in regard to laying before Government the difficulties you have to contend with in regard to titles, &c., and should hope that a general registration of hills, &c. will be coupled

Report of the Committee on
Registration and Convey-
ance, presented to the
House of Lords in 1858.
(where procurable?)

with the contemplated survey of this Presidency,* The question is one which has its difficulties, an interesting as well as practicable volume on this subject for the library of your Association, would be the Blue Book noted in the margin.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,

Acting Collector.

Resolved, that the Secretary reply to the Collector's letter in reference to road ferries, stating that there is no traffic for the simple reason that the roads and ferries are impassable during the rains, and that if the Government will not undertake the construction of proper ferries over the rivers named in the Secretary's application, the Association will undertake the same, provided a toll is allowed to be levied, Government supplying a nirkick.

Read a communication from the Collector on education, and the desirability of an English and Vernacular School at Manantoddy.

Secretary requested to reply that the Members highly approved of the same, and would suggest that the Collector circulate a list of subscriptions in aid of the object adverted to.†

3rd. Read a letter from the Editor of the *Cochin Courier*.

Secretary directed to return thanks for the courtesy, and order the said paper on account of the Association, filing the same.

Read a letter from Mr. G. SAWYER, offering his services to the Planters' Association as Law Agent.

Secretary requested to reply that the question of Mr. SAWYER's settling in Wynaud was a matter for his own consideration, with which the Association did not feel called upon to interfere.

* In the year 2000.

† Which said office has never done.

Read a letter from M. RIMINGTON, Esq., forwarding his resignation of Membership of the Association.

Moved by P. O. LOUGHLIN, Esq.

Seconded by A. C. BARNES, Esq.

That J. G. GLASSON, Esq., be elected Committee Member for Vithery, in place of M. RIMINGTON, Esq., resigned.

Passed Nem. Con.

Read Report No. 2, from Mr. MORLEY, on Cooly labour.

Resolved, that the thanks of the Association be conveyed to Mr. MORLEY.

Read the following report on Roads, from the local Committee, also from J. G. GLASSON, Esq., Member of Association.

Report on the Roads of Central Wynaud, by the Road Committee.

1. The Road Committee of Central Wynaud would wish to impress on Government the great necessity for opening the new (Bandy) line of road up the Tambercherry Ghaut at as early a date as possible. They would observe, that through the assistance rendered by a Planter (Mr. PETTMAN), the cooly lines, bazaar, &c., are completed at the head of the present pass for the people that will be placed at the disposal of the Engineer for this work. The Committee would beg to state that the necessity for the immediate opening of this Ghaut (with connecting road from the foot to Calicut, and the head, to the several planting districts of Wynaud), is annually becoming greater, in consequence of the number of estates which are opened each season, as well as the extension of old plantations.

2nd. The Committee would suggest that the present line of public road from the head of the Tambercherry pass to Culputty estate be almost entirely abandoned, as the trace and present condition of the road are disgraceful. The line of road which they would recommend would run along the west banks of the nullah which forms the boundary (on the East) of Lackadie Estate, which nullah crosses the present line of public road in three places, and, during the monsoon, is impassable. By taking the line pointed out by the Committee, this nullah would only be crossed once, at Connooth, where a bridge could be erected at a small expense. On the new line of road joining the present line on Mr. JONES' land, it should continue as at present, until it arrives at the ascent approaching Mr. GLASSON'S bungalow, when the road should be taken to the left, along the borders of a paddy flat, and it would again join the present line of road about one-third of a

mile from this point, from this carried nearly along the present line to the river at Connooth. From Connooth to the Culputty Estate, the road would require to be re-traced the entire distance, as the ascent, both from Connooth and Culputty, prevent any bandy passing over any part of this road. The Committee are of opinion that the new line should be taken to the right of the present road. The road from the Culputty Estate to the Travellers' Bungalow is a good line, and with proper repairs, erection of three bridges over small but steep-banked nullahs, &c., could be made fit for bandy traffic.

3rd. From Culputty to the river at Panamarum, the line of road would require to be entirely newly traced, the present road being perfectly unfit for bandies, almost so even for carrying bullocks. From Panamarum to Manantoddy the line of road is good, and with a small outlay, could be made available for wheeled conveyance.

The Committee would especially bring to the notice of Government the total want of bridges along this line of road, as, indeed, throughout the whole of this district, and the necessity of placing proper ferries on the large rivers instead of the present dangerous and inconvenient means of passing over.

The Committee would suggest that a toll be levied on all bullocks, horses, and other cattle, to defray the extra expense of establishing and keeping up these ferries.

4th. In conclusion, the Committee would beg to impress upon Government the advantages which the inhabitants (European and Native) would derive from the opening of a bandy road from Culputty to Mysore, *via* Sultan's Battery, and they would also consider it desirable that Government should assist, if not willing to furnish the entire funds, to open a road from Vithery to the two Terriout Estates, in order that they may have the benefit of the new Tambercherry pass and road to Calicut.

(Signed) J. F. FERGUSON, *Chairman.*

„ P. O. LOUGHLIN.

„ W. BOOKEY.

A. C. BARNES, Esq.

*Secretary Planters' Association,
Manantoddy.*

SIR,

In accordance with your notification of a Committee resolution having passed to the effect that the Sub-Committee of each district be

requested to draw up a report of the present state of the roads in Wynaud, and to suggest any improvement in those already existing, together with their opinion of the practicability of opening up any new and useful trace, I have now the honor to transmit to you for the information of the Government my opinion thereon, regretting, at the same time, that particular business prevents me from meeting my fellow colleagues before the time specified in your notice, *viz.*, 1st January 1858.

It will be impossible for me to confine my remarks solely to any one district. The roads throughout Wynaud run so much into each other, and the country being of that nature, that I have thought it best to embrace the whole of them in one report.

In the first place, we must suppose Beypoor* as the one shipping port of the whole province, and Manantoddy its Capital, for upon these two points depend the direction and number required. The ghauts at present in existence are, first, the Peria, leading from Manantoddy to Cannanore and Tellicherry; hitherto the traffic on this line has embraced a large portion of the produce of Wynaud, Mysore and Coorg, but it has been found, as Calicut and Beypoor advance in trade, that other outlets are sought for. I would suggest that merely the bridges between Peria and the Capital be at once put in order, as several of them will be quite impassable during the coming monsoon.

New estates are forming upon the range of hills to the north of Manantoddy, for the produce of which there is no outlet; I would therefore propose that a cross line be opened up from Dindamal towards Coorote, a distance of some 8 or 10 miles, and so avail of the Coottiaddy pass. Second comes the Coottiaddy ghaut, leading from the Capital to Coottiaddy, the nearest navigable point of the river of that name and running to Beypoor. This river is navigable for boats nearly all the year round, and with very little expenditure.

The ghaut could be made passable for bandies from Coorote to Coottiaddy. The remaining portion of the road towards the Capital would require to be altered in many places, to admit of bandy traffic; and as the main road from Mysore to Manantoddy has been once† opened up for bandies, it would be injudicious not to continue this line, where so small an outlay is required, with the advantages of wheeled communication between the navigable point of the river and Mysore. About 6 or 7 miles from the Capital, on the Mysore road, a trace

* Or Cochin, certainly.

† Better still, to keep more south, and have one grand trunk road from Coottiaddy via Tondur to Sultan's Battery.

ought to be made, passing through the rising district of Terinelly into the Coorg country, so completely opening up this fine and luxuriant district.

The road from Manantoddy to Mysore requires a small outlay for repairs, and being the main thoroughfare for our coolies to and from Wynaud, I would suggest the Mysore Commissioner be at once requested to draw attention to the matter, for, upon the influx of labour alone, can Wynaud ever expect to rise. The Planters have it in contemplation to erect sheds on this line, at intermediate stations, for the protection of the labouring classes from the monsoon during their journey.

A bridle path from Manantoddy to Terriout is now being opened up by some spirited proprietors in the latter district. The Government have granted a sum of 500 Rs. towards this road, but upon the understanding that an elevation be preserved, so that hereafter it could be opened out for bandy traffic. As this road runs almost in a direct line to the district of Vithery, I would suggest that it be continued on the same level, and so bring this district within some 20 miles of the Capital, being at once a saving of some seven or eight miles over the present rough route *via* Pannamaram.

The present existing line of road from Manantoddy to within two or three miles of Pannamaram, I would abandon; a very good trace at present exists from the latter point towards Coorote, and from this line I would branch off towards Manantoddy, and meet the Coorote road near the banks of the Manantoddy river, over which I would recommend a substantial bridge to be built, and as there are Europeans in the district who would contract for the same, I strongly recommend that this be at once proceeded with.

Upon the road from Pannamaram to Culputty, I would not, for the present, incur any expense.

From Sultan's Battery to Pannamaram the road is quite good enough for present purposes, so is that from the Battery towards Goondelpet, and from the Battery towards Culputty; the traffic which would otherwise fall upon these lines, I would divert by a continuation of the Tambercherry ghaut directed towards Nelliallum and Goodaloor, through the Culputty valley and Moopaynaud, crossing the head of the Carcoor ghaut, and so join the present road between Nelliallum and Goodaloor, from thence the road ought to be kept in good order as being the nearest route to the hills.* From the hills I would return by

* Since marked out.

a trace through Mr. OUCHTERLOXY's and Captain GODFREY's Estates towards Edekerri, from thence to Maamboot, being the highest navigable point of the Beypoor river. The Nelliallum Estates can avail themselves of the Tambercherry ghaut;* but as there is an old ghaut called the Cholady pass leading to Nelliamboor from Moopaynaud, I would suggest that this part of the country be examined, there being large tracts of available land in this locality.

The road from Goondelpet to Goodaloor requires some small repairs. But lastly comes the great Tambercherry ghaut,† of which so much has been said, and I consider the opening up of this ghaut for bandy traffic the most important point; for, in the first place, if Wynaud is ever to become a coffee producing country, the present means of conveying our produce to the coast on bullocks' backs will be quite insufficient; wheeled conveyances must be resorted to, and for wheeled traffic there must be a macadamized road, the cost of which is not only in the first instance very expensive, but the after upkeep the same, and what I hold out is‡, would it not be much better to have one good macadamized road properly kept up, than two or three indifferent ghauts badly cared for? If Wynaud is ever so unfortunate as to divide upon this matter it will be years and years before any of these ghauts can be available for wheeled traffic. I therefore recommend the Association to advise the Government to pause in expenditure upon any one line before the country is sufficiently examined; any reckless expenditure before this is done is so much to the debit of Wynaud, and will be held up hereafter to the Planters as so much capital expended for their benefit.

I would recommend tolls being placed upon the different lines of roads and ferries, but instead of the present primitive and dangerous method of crossing the latter by jangdars, consider that boats ought to be substituted, the same as are used in the low country. One private boat ferry has been in existence on the Manantoddy river for years, and answers all expectations. The rent of these ferries would, I believe, more than pay themselves the first year. But the question now arises, where are the funds to come from to make and keep up all these roads? I would reply by recommending the introduction of a road ordinance similar to that at present in use in Ceylon, which country is now intersected in all quarters by roads, some of which are not to be surpassed in the whole world. I think it most unjust to tax merely the

* They have their own Ghaut.

† An impracticable line for a very limited extent of country.

‡ Certainly, and that by Terriour should be the road.

coffee planters, when others derive an equal benefit. At the same time I feel assured, judging from the numerous subscription lists which have lately been in circulation for the purpose of opening up and repairing different roads, that the Planters of Wynaud, few as they are at present, will be the first to come forward, and share in the expenses of opening up the country.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient Servant,

(Signed) C. Y. REED,

Approved by W. RICHMOND,

„ R. A. BECHER.

Resolved, that the Secretary forward the report to the Collector of Malabar.

Report of J. G. GLASSON, Esq., Member of the Association.

VITHERY, 11th January, 1858.

To A. C. BARNES, Esq.

Honorary Secretary P. A. W. I.

SIR,

Having heard from a friend that a Sub-Committee of the Association has been formed to consider the matter of roads in Wynaud, although I have nothing to do with the Sub-Committee, yet, as a Member of the Association, I think you will not consider this letter intrusive, or that I have not every confidence in the superior information possessed by the Members of the said Committee.

In my opinion, one of the most material points is to decide what place on the Coast is most likely to become a large shipping port, for there cannot be a doubt that as soon as the Railway to Madras is opened some spot will be selected on the Western Coast for Steamers to depart from. It therefore behoves the Members of the Committee to weigh well this point before proceeding. I offer a few remarks on this head from personal experience, and not hearsay.

General opinion weighs between Beypoor, Ponany, Cochin, and Allepee.

Ponany was settled by the Government Engineer for the Terminus of the Railway, who, however capable on land, seemed to have very erroneous notions afloat. First, from the heaviest surf that runs on the

Western Coast being off Ponany, the bar could never be kept clear, and if you can get into the river, no room for a vessel to swing. All this was so fully brought before our late Collector, Mr. CONOLLY's notice, that the Terminus was changed to Beypoor, so we may consider that point now settled.

Allepee.—The smooth water there is produced by a sand bank which is always liable to shift; there are two or three of these banks along the coast, one off the Collector's House at Calicut, but if you read "Horsburg" you will see that they have shifted since his day, therefore there can be no reliance on such places. Moreover, Allepee is so perfectly out of the way, it is not to be thought of for a moment.

Cochin.—From the great increase of Merchants of late years from Colombo, this place is coming more into notice, but it has naturally so many difficulties and dangers connected with the bar, backwater, &c.* and the utter impossibility of boats going off to vessels during the monsoon, and at times even in the fair season, so that communication with steamers would always be a matter of doubt; to deepen the bar so as to allow a large steamer to enter it with a heavy sea on is utterly impossible, and to deepen it at all effectually would be attended with a heavy cost, owing to the banks which run out to sea for some distance both north and south of the bar. There is not the slightest doubt it could be much improved, but I fear if there would be a *quid pro quo*.

Beypoor.—The present Terminus of the Railway is no doubt the best place† that could be selected, as the bar, at the mouth of its fine river, could easily be greatly improved at a small cost. The sea is deep and smooth, so that vessels can approach much nearer the Coast than anywhere else.

The range of rocks to the south, immediately before the Railway Terminus, could easily be turned into a depôt for coals, and under shelter of this boats could put off to vessels in any weather that I have seen during the last 20 years. The difficulty is in getting over a bar or beaching a boat.

I now come to a part of the Coast that was much thought of in 1840, where I feel sure the best point for a Port on this Coast exists, not only for trading vessels but especially for Mail Steamers, as it could be entered and left at all hours of day or night, in all weathers, without one moment's detention, and without Pilots.

* A great mistake. Both freight and insurance are less here, and a very small sum will make a magnificent harbour of the backwater.

† True, but not equal to Cochin.

This Port can be formed to the south of Mount Delhi, which, if I mistake not, is in the same latitude as Aden, thus the nearest point from land to land. This desideratum for a port will be formed by turning the present rocks, which lay under water, about $\frac{7}{8}$ of a mile to the south of Mount Delhi, into a breakwater; vessels will be able to enter close to Mount Delhi on the north side, land mails and coal, as the breakwater can be turned into a depôt for coals, and a wharf for Mail Steamers, and then proceed on their voyage, going out at the south entrance, and proceed to Ceylon and China. the Railway would then have to be extended along the Coast for about 70 miles over an easy line, say from Beypoor to Bellipattum, running through Cannanore, the head-quarters of the troops.

Feeling confident that Beypoor or Bellipattum will be the point for shipment, I consider it is not asking too much that Peria and the Tambercherry ghauts be put in good repair as bandy ghauts; the Cottaddy, to be kept up as it now is, would be most ample. Sessapara ghaut for traffic is perfectly useless, and if kept up, can only be looked upon as one of the small comforts the Civil Service think they are entitled to; the Carcoor would also be useless if opened out for traffic* to-morrow, as there is no pasturage, and the bullocks must go as far as Arriacode before the coffee could be put in boats, and I am sure the extra price the bullock men would ask to go that way, (not only on account of the pasturage, but getting no salt), together with the shipment, boat hire, landing, and coolies' hire to the godowns in Calicut, would come to more than the estates now pay from Goodaloor to Calicut. I would therefore propose that in case the Tambercherry line cannot be made, that a line be opened out to go to Alial, from whence you can go by road or water to Calicut, I would therefore have the following roads made good bandy roads.

1st. From Peria to Sultan's Battery.

2nd. From Sultan's Battery to Gooddepat.

3rd. From Sultan's Battery to join the new trace making from Ooty to near Nellialum, which should be carried on through Atwyce round the foot of Chembera peak to Vithery or the Tambercherry ghaut head, wherever it may be.

Second Class, or Country Roads.

From Manantoddy to Vithery.

From Vithery to Cotiaddy, *via* Terriout.

* Incorrect; coffee can be shipped 10 miles higher up the river, and there is excellent pasturage.

From Manantoddy to Cottiaddy.

From Manantoddy to Brumagherries.

From Vithery to Sultan's Battery, *via* Culputty.

I consider Government ought to make the roads, give the repairs out on contract, and put tolls on all the roads, and only send an Engineer Officer round now and then to see that the contractors are doing their duty.

I have not gone fully into all particulars, as I might have done, but no doubt each Member can fill up the pros and cons.

I have the honor to remain, &c.

J. G. GLASSON.

Resolved, that the best thanks of the Association are due to Mr. GLASSON for his able report.

(Signed) J. F. FERGUSSON,
Chairman.

MINUTES OF A COMMITTEE MEETING, HELD AT PANAMARRAM, FEBRUARY 9TH, 1858.

Present.

W. RICHMOND, Esq., *in the Chair.*

C. Y. REED, Esq.

W. BOOKEY, Esq.

P. O. LOUGHLIN,

J. G. GLASSON.

A. C. BARNES, Esq. *Secretary.*

Proceedings of last Meeting read and approved of.

Secretary submitted the following letters from H. M. MORLEY, Esq.

To the Assistant Superintendent Ashtagram Division, Mysore.
SIR,

Captain PEARS was kind enough to promise me his assistance as far as he could; I understand he is absent, will you therefore kindly excuse my applying to you for aid. Many of the coolies to whom I have advanced money through my Duffadars have absconded. The Talook and Amshom to which they belong I have registered, and if you will supply me with a Peon to accompany my Duffadar to their places of residence I shall esteem it a favour.

As the Mysore Government derive much benefit from the amount of money thrown into the Mysore country by the employment of its inhabitants in Wynaud, I, as the agent of the Wynaud Coffee Planters have every reason to hope for assistance.

I have the honor to be, SIR, your most obedient Servant,

(Signed) H. M. MORLEY.

REPLY.

SIR,

If you will tell me the Talooks the coolies come from, I will send an order to the authorities there to give you every assistance, to enable you to secure the advances made.

Your's faithfully,

(Signed) G. B. RAMSAY.

H. M. MORLEY, Esq.

Resolved, that the Honorary Secretary write to Captain RAMSAY, conveying the thanks of the Association for the assistance given to Mr. MORLEY, pointing out, at the same time, the serious loss and inconvenience suffered by Planters in consequence of coolies absconding and refusing to work out advances made to them in good faith, to enable them to reach the plantations.

Moved by P. O. LOUGHLIN, Esq.

Seconded by C. Y. REED, Esq.

That the Secretary do write to Captain TENNANT, Assistant District Engineer, stating that reports have been circulated at Cannanore, (the authorship of which have been attributed to him) to the effect that the Planters of Wynaud were in the habit of ill-treating their coolies. The Committee wish to know if he has spread such a report, and if so, that he would be so good as to specify when and where he saw coolies ill used.

Some conversation then took place in reference to the compiling the yearly report, to be read before the Meeting on the 3rd proximo. This the Honorary Secretary was requested to do, submitting the same to the Committee for their final approval as soon as possible.

Moved by C. Y. REED, Esq.

Seconded by P. O. LOUGHLIN, Esq.

That the Anniversary Dinner do take place at Manantoddy on

the 3rd proximo, and that W. J. RICHMOND, Esq., be requested to take the management of the same on behalf of the Association.

(Signed) W. RICHMOND,
Chairman of Meeting.

COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

In submitting the Abstract of the year's Proceedings just read for the approval of the Members of the Planters' Association, your Committee would venture to give a short summary of those material questions which have occupied the attention of your executive since the formation of the Society last year.

The first question, and one which may be said to have had a material influence on the formation of our Association, was the contemplated tax on all lands taken up for the cultivation of coffee in this district.

The amount of this tax has been variously surmised, ranging, in fact, from one Rupee to four Rupees per acre; but whether the former or the latter, the general feeling would seem to have been that a system of taxation aimed at one particular class of people or system of culture should be protested against with as little delay as possible. For this purpose, as has been seen, a Memorial was drawn up and forwarded to the Madras Government, combining not only the question of taxation, but others of equal importance, namely, the difficulty of obtaining legal titles to land, and the highly inefficient state of the *Police*.

On this point we may observe, that we have succeeded so far in staving off the tax, and if ultimately we are to submit to one, we trust it will be accompanied with some promise of an equivalent (on which plea alone can any taxation be justified) in improved roads and means of transit, and a *Police* with some semblance of utility.

The state of the road in Wynaud, and the absolute necessity of an improved road down the Tambercherry pass, has occupied much of the attention of, not only your Committee, but of private Members of the Association, and although we cannot, unfortunately, point to any great result, or flatter ourselves that the little done is attributable to the representations of your Committee, still we may remark that some little activity prevails in public works, that a new trace has been cut for the Tambercherry pass, and that in one instance the Collector of

Malabar, who would seem to have taken a great interest in the welfare of the Coffee districts, subscribed 300 Rupees from the local funds towards a cross road from Terriout to Manantoddy, eight miles of which has been opened under the superintendence of an able and energetic Member of your Association, Mr. MARSHALL. We are also, as has been read, in communication with the local Government in reference to the substitution of boats for the present bamboo contrivances for crossing the rivers on the main lines of road. On this point the local Government has shown its usual readiness to meet the views of your Association, and we are only waiting for the development of a plan for carrying out the improvement contemplated.

Your Committee has also drawn up carefully prepared reports on the roads of Wynaud, embracing the whole question of cross and main communication, which reports have been duly forwarded to the local Government.

Many points of minor importance have also come under discussion and consideration; namely, the system of advances, and their recovery, relation of masters and servants, bazaar weights and measures, cattle trespass, &c., but as these will be duly submitted in printed form, we need not further allude to them at present.

Since the formation of our Association, as all are aware, a rebellion, or military revolt, of the most portentous character and dimensions, has occurred in the Bengal Presidency, which at one time was feared would spread even to Madras.

In Bengal we find that European settlers, engaged like ourselves in agricultural and other industrial pursuits have had to fly from the scene of their labors, sacrificing not only their property, but, in many instances, their lives. Under the circumstances of this excitement, it naturally came within the province of your Association to endeavour to organize from our body materials for our future defence, hence the loyal address to Lord HARRIS offering our services as a Volunteer Corps, and the formation of such corps initiated by the Association.

In conclusion we may consider the year's proceedings and present position of the Association with satisfaction and hope for the future. Scattered, as we are, over a large extent of country, there would seem little immediate prospects of our number or funds equalling Associations of the same nature existing in Bengal and Ceylon.

Our Association at present consists of 26 enrolled Members, which will give a fund of Rs. 520 per annum, a sum which can scarcely

in addition to the present Tax or Export Duty, to levy a Land Tax : I conceive it to be a breach of faith.

Regarding the registration of titles to land, I think the application should be for the whole of Malabar, it would be one of the greatest boons that could be conferred, and of infinitely greater value to the Natives than to the Europeans; nearly all the Mopla outbreaks which have occurred in the Shernaad and Earnaad Talooks have originated in disputes between Moplas and Nairs regarding the claims on and titles to land; four fifths of the suits in the Zillah Courts, on landed property, would be avoided, if registration of titles, mortgages, &c. become compulsory; no deed should be admitted as evidence that was not duly registered, this would do away with much crime, as numerous forged deeds are presented as evidence before the Courts

The plan would be, if a Legislative Act can be obtained for this purpose, that a given number of months should be allowed for the registration of the present titles, mortgages, and claims, after which period no unregistered deeds should be admitted as evidence. No new deed, unregistered 30 days after it was executed, should be valid.

With reference to the recovery of advances through the means proposed by Mr ROBINSON, from my experience I should say that it is proved that it is not of the slightest benefit; for while the suit is in progress of hearing, the Mysore Coolies would disappear, and in addition to the loss of advance, we should have also the expenses to add to them; of course a decree could be obtained, in the same way as with local labour, but your difficulties would then commence, for the Moonsiff has not the power of forcing the defendant to go and work out his advance. We require a summary process enabling a Magistrate to seize those who refuse to work out their debts, and compel them to return to the estate till the debt is paid, or refund the money on the spot. If this law exists in any part of India, the application should be made for its extension to Malabar, not to apply for a new Act. I understand that Sir C. RAWLINSON gave it as his opinion, that in the former petition this error was made, he stated it would be difficult to obtain a new Act, although easy to obtain permission to extend the power of one already granted.

As regards the labour question, it presents numerous difficulties. I concur with you that to pay monthly would increase the evil of the present advance system, for it is quite clear to me, that one cooly cannot go on through the month without an advance of rice or money. I

like the plan you propose, but as the law stands at present in Malabar, if a servant does not fulfil his engagement as regards time, you cannot punish him except by stopping the pay that may be due.*

(Signed) JOHN WELLS,

Pilly Caudoo.

CALICUT, 6th July, 1857.

T. MACUELL, Esq.,

Honorary Secretary Planters' Association,

Western India.

SIR,

With reference to a resolution passed at the last Committee Meeting of the above Association, wherein you were requested to address the Acting Collector of Malabar on the subject of Cattle Trespass, I beg to offer a few remarks, being myself a great sufferer. The property which I now write from, is infested day and night with native cattle; no sooner is one herd driven out at one place, than others enter again at another. The amount of damage done is fearful, not only by nipping off the tops of the young Coffee Plant, so rendering them almost useless, but by trampling down the same in the rush when driven out. If the Coffee is full grown, the damage is still greater, as they knock the berries off the trees.

I have done all I can to stop this grievance, both by requesting the surrounding villagers not to send their cattle into the estates, and by applying to the Tahsildar, who has again, I believe, sent word to the head men, but all of no avail. I have offered to place cattle keepers in charge of any cattle the surrounding villagers may wish to graze on my land, and to house them completely at night; but they are not disposed to come to such an arrangement. My cattle never trespass upon the native paddy fields, and I think it very hard that my property should be so infested with native cattle.

I remain, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Signed) C. Y. REED.

8th June, 1857.

* The most sensible letter on the subject.

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Honorary Secretary Planters' Association,

Western India.

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I remain, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Signed) C. Y. REED.

8th June, 1857.

* The most sensible letter on the subject.

R E P L Y.

No. 1924.

W. ROBINSON, Esq.,

Collector of Malabar.

SIR,

I am directed by the Committee of the Planters' Association, to represent to you, that the Planters residing in Wynaud are much inconvenienced, and suffer much annoyance and loss from the present inefficient state of the law respecting servants and labourers.

You are aware that we have to obtain all, or most of our labourers, from the Mysore country, and that to enable them to travel from their homes to the estates, money is advanced, which they repay or work out on their arrival.

But if they refuse to do so, the only remedy at present is a civil suit to be instituted against each individual; the result is, practically, a denial of all redress. Several Members give instances, but I think I need hardly trespass on your time by quoting them.

The Committee are desirous, before they proceed to draw up any Memorial on this subject, you should be first applied to, in order that they may ascertain how far you are disposed to assist them in this matter, either directly, or by recommending the subject to the consideration of Government.

They also wish to know what remedy they have for loss and damage to their Coffee by cattle trespass, and whether the present nuisance caused by the buffalo village on the main road at the entrance to Manantoddy can be remedied, for at present the buffaloes plough up the road softened by the heavy rains, and the cattle lie about at all times as in a barn yard, making it dangerous to all who ride or attempt to drive in that direction. Finally, they wish to bring to your notice that the Government seer is not adopted by the bazaar Merchants, and that at this season, when necessities are becoming daily more expensive, they use various stones of no reliable or uniform weight.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your's most obediently,

(Signed) THOMAS MACHELL,

Honorary Secretary.

MANANTODDY, 8th June, 1858.

To T. MACHELL, Esq.,

Honorary Secretary Planters' Association, Manantoddy.

SIR,

In reply to your letter, dated 8th June 1857, I have the honor to observe that the law provides that petty suits for sums under 20 Rs. may be taken up out of their turn and disposed of summarily by the District Moonsiff; that the Village Moonsiff has likewise cognizance of suits under 10 Rs., and I think that a good deal might be done by applying to these officers. However, I admit that the law is weak and process slow, and I shall be prepared to submit any suggestion you may have to make for the favorable consideration of Government. The grievance is felt over all India, but a remedy can only be provided by the Legislative Council.

I send you a copy of the recently enacted Cattle Trespass Act, and request that you will impound all trespassing cattle, and in the meantime strict orders have been sent to the Police at Manantoddy on the subject of the Buffalo village;* likewise on the subject of the weights and measures in use. I would recommend each European to have a proper standard measure prepared and sealed by the head of Police (this will be done on application), with which standard to check the measures and at once report deficiencies. Act No. III of 1857, to be returned as early as practicable after perusal.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,

Acting Collector.

CALICUT, 15th June 1857.

PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN INDIA,

MANANTODDY, July 1857.

To the Commissioner of Official Salaries.

SIR,

I am desired by the Members of the Planters' Association of Western India, to inform you that the want of a Covenanted European Officer in Wynaud is much felt by the numerous English settlers who are

* Still, however, a public nuisance.

employed in the cultivation of Coffee in that district.* The appointment of an English gentleman would be generally considered as a proof that the Government is anxious to protect and foster the outlay of English capital, and the settlement of Europeans in this country.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,
(Signed) THOMAS MACHELL,
Honorary Secretary.

No. 1111.

To THOMAS MACHELL, Esq.,

*Honorary Secretary to the Planters' Association, Western India,
Mamontoddy, dated Ootacamund, the 23rd July 1857.*

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant. Your application should be made direct to the Government of Madras. I have proposed a considerable increase to the establishment of officers in Malabar, but I should go beyond my province if I offered any suggestion respecting their location.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,
(Signed) H. RICKETTS,
*Commissioner for the revision of Civil Salaries
and Establishments throughout India.*

MADRAS, 8th July 1857.

From GEORGE ELLIS, Esq.,

Register to the Court of Sudr Udalut.

To R. CHATFIELD, Esq.,

Acting Civil Judge, Tellicherry.

SIR,

With reference to your letter, dated the 19th ultimo, I am directed by the Judges of the Court of Sudr Udalut to request you will intimate to the Acting Collector that the powers of Heads of Villages cannot legally

* A great mistake.

be vested in Tahsildars and Sub Officers of Police, and that they are not prepared at present to recommend the proposed measure for remedying the evil complained of by the Planters of Wynaud.

I have, &c.,

SUDR UDALUT REGISTER'S OFFICE, }
8th July 1857.

(Signed) G. ELLIS,
Register.

True Copy.)

(Signed) R. CHATFIELD,
Acting Collector.

An Address from the Committee of the Planters' Association of Western India, to all interested in the cultivation of Coffee, &c.

GENTLEMEN,

On the 3rd of March 1857, a Meeting was held at Culputty, to which all persons interested in Coffee Planting were invited by a notice published for some weeks previous in the *Madras Athenæum*. The result of this Meeting was, the formation of a Society for the purpose of discussing all subjects affecting the interests of Coffee Planters, and indeed of all Europeans not Company's Servants, settled in the country, and engaged in agricultural and manufacturing pursuits. A Memorial has been sent to Government, protesting against the contemplated land tax, unknown hitherto in Wynaud, which is to be levied on the Coffee Estates, when, after great expense, we are just beginning to convert uninhabited jungles into a fertile and populous country.

Also on the difficulties of obtaining legal titles to the land we have bought or wish to buy. We have pointed out that, on the part of Government, nothing has been done to assist us in any way in overcoming the many difficulties we have to contend with. That whilst we pay tolls at bridges and an ad valorem duty of 3 Rs. on 50 Rs., nothing has been done in the way of public works that would not have been done had there been no Coffee Estates or European capitalists in Malabar.

And finally, we alluded to the inefficiency of the Police all over the country. Since forwarding this Memorial, we have held consultations on the present state of the law, by which we have to institute a civil suit against every labourer who refuses to work out the advances made to enable him to arrive at the estates. The subject of cattle trespass has also engaged our attention, as also that of bazaar weights and measures.

These, with matters of minor importance, have employed the Committee up to the present time. A General Meeting of the Association, is to be held annually, when the report of the transactions of the previous year will be read, and Members will be chosen for the Committee of the ensuing year, to represent the interest of the districts to which they belong.

At present, the Committee consists of nine Members from different parts of Wynaud, but they have the power to add to their numbers as the Association extends, each Member of the Association pays an annual subscription of 20 Rs. and all communications are to be addressed to the Honorary Secretary at Manantoddy.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, we appeal to all whose interests are in common with our own, to acknowledge that it is a duty we owe to ourselves, to the country, and to the state, to unite in representing those points which check the outlay of English capital and delay the development of the resources and the civilization of the country.

Look at our brothers, the Planters of Bengal; the Government of that country has more than once acknowledged their public spirit and usefulness even in that densely populated and highly cultivated land; and though, at the present moment, we are less numerous and less influential than the Bengal Planters' Association, we will not allow that we are less earnest in our desire to fulfil our duties to the state under whose protection we now live and prosper, to the country we have made our home, to the numerous native labourers we employ, and to those gentlemen whose interests we are chosen to represent.

(Signed) THOMAS MACHELL,

Honorary Secretary and Treasurer,

Planters' Association of Western India.

MANANTODDY, June 1857.

No. 15.

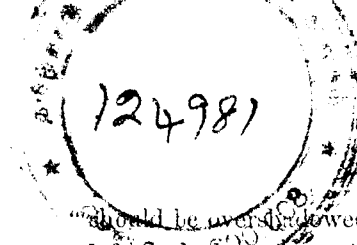
To A. C. BARNES, Esq.,

Honorary Secretary Planters' Association,

Western India, Manantoddy.

SIR,

I have the honor to request, that you will circulate among the gentlemen of your Association my request, that in fencing along the sides of public thoroughfares care may always be taken to leave a clear



"should be overgrown with trees, I conceive that the hills should be left clothed to the extent of about half of their height from the top leaving half of the slope and all the valley for cultivation, this available portion would far exceed in extent the higher ridges, which should be conserved."*

It seems to me that the immense tracts of virgin Forests in the rich valleys of the Koondahs are eminently suited for Coffee cultivation, and the removal of the Forest *there* would not be attended with the same disadvantage as on the Eastern Ghauts, where the drier climate does not admit of the same effort at speedy reproduction.

If it be desirable to lay down a general rule in regard to the limits of elevation within which clearing for coffee Cultivation should be allowed, I would specify from about 2,500 to 4,500 feet, this being, I understand, the extreme range within which Coffee planted on a large scale is found to thrive.

It is important to give *every facility* for the cultivation of coffee, but it is desirable to limit the clearings to those situations where this peculiar shrub can be grown with advantage. I have observed some clearings, where the ground is so precipitous that it is extremely improbable that the soil can last many years.

It may be urged that, in general, people are sufficiently alive to their own interests to select only those sites which are in every way eligible, but from the inexperience of many who embark in coffee planting, it seems desirable to lay down some rule. I need only point to the vast amount of land cleared and subsequently abandoned both in this country and Ceylon, either before or after planting.

It is to be regretted that, independent of considerations of climate Coffee cultivation should find a place in those parts of the forest where the timber is of a *superior* description, and which, at present, Government is put to great shifts to obtain for public purposes.

I would therefore add, that in places which are accessible and which contain very fine timber, it seems desirable that one of the Assistants in my Department, should have an opportunity of removing such timber as is available, or of marking it, with a view to its being taken at a valuation by the occupier, should he desire to do so. I especially allude to Teak, Blackwood, Vengay, and Kurrah Murdah.

* Sir W. Hooker, in his letter () to Sir C. Trevelyan, expressed approval of their rules for Coffee Grants. H. C.

space of 18 feet from the centre of the road free, in order that there may be room for the necessary improvement, drainage, &c., without having to interfere with the estate.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,

CULPUTTY, 2nd January 1858.

Acting Collector.

SUMMARY OF FOREST OPERATIONS DATED 1st MAY 1858.

No. 337.

34. *Coffee.* The successful cultivation of the Coffee plant is extending remarkably, and applications for grants of Forest land pour in upon the Revenue Authorities. In the Sisipara, Perambady, and Sumpagee passes, vast clearings are being made. In the Coonoor Ghaut six large plantations may be seen; and there are very large and numerous holdings, above 30, in the Wynâd, which from year to year will increase. The plant has succeeded admirably in Mysore, and there are patches of cultivation in Madura, and even in North Canara. I may observe, that in granting Forest land, it seems to me that while the destruction of Forest (Teak, Ebony and Poon spar excepted) for *bonâ fide* cultivation may be considered legitimate, yet the preservation of the fringe along the crest of mountain ridges is of special importance in a climatic point of view, and this should never be given over to the axe. As these mountain crests are not suitable for the growth of coffee, the restriction cannot be complained of.

I here beg to annex Extract of letter to the Collector of Coimbatore, dated 2nd October 1857, which contains my views, in reply to a reference upon this important matter.

"The higher Sholas clothing the Ghauts on both sides are of the utmost importance, and the climate is believed to suffer the greatest detriment from their removal. I would, therefore, suggest that the high-wooded mountain tops overhanging the low country (such as Hoolical) should be preserved with rigid care; the Forest there should not be given over to the axe, lest the supplies of water may be injured. It is the opinion of many persons, in which I concur, that the vast clearings which have taken place have had a share in producing the irregularity of the monsoon which has of late years been so much complained of in Coimbatore. In order that the course of the rivulets

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புவனைத்தாள்.

சே எண் :

ப. எண் :

[illegible]