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[Signature]

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Judicial DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1849	~~Press~~
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	6 th Sept	1881
		195

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Malden District Magistrate Court,
Sabbath, 25 January, 1861 -

To
Hon. W. Logan, Esquire,
District Magistrate of Malden,
To
The Honorable W. Harrison, Esq.,
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort St. George

Sir,
With reference to P. O. No. 2706, dated 31st December 1860,
on the subject of thefts of coffee in transit between Weymouth and the
Coast Towns, I have the honor to report that I have been in
communication with the Superintendent of Police ^{on the subject} and we are
unanimously of opinion the Police force must be considerably increased if
the duty of protecting coffee in transit between the plantations and the
Coast Towns is to be thrown on the Magistracy and Police.

2. The Superintendent of Police has at my suggestion prepared an
estimate of the extra force that will be required and he is of opinion that
400 constables and 137 constables will have to be entertained at a total
annual cost of £14,150-13-10.

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B. O. H.

B. O. H.

3. It may appear an easy matter to put down habitual receivers such as those alluded to in para 1 of the f. l. under reference, but the practical difficulties in the way are very numerous.

(a). If the coffee planters themselves or trustworthy Agents accompanied the carts and boats conveying the coffee, the tressing could not be carried on or if attempted could be detected at once and the guilty parties punished.

(b). No matter stand, however, no trustworthy Agent accompanies the coffee. No person can be everywhere by day and by night, and so the parties are free to carry on their operations at many of the stops in the long journey the coffee has to come.

(c). What happens in most cases is that the theft is detected only when the coffee comes to be measured out in the curing-house yard, but then it is too late to detect the thieves and all the remedy the planter has is to fine his cart contractor the value of the missing stuff.

(d). This fining of the contractors is always done, but it is insufficient to stop the tressing because the coffee, as Mr. Grant points out is peculiarly liable to be "sweated" in various ways. The contractor cannot be held responsible for delivering more than

he received, and by "sweating" the coffee, not only can deficiencies that have naturally occurred by wastage in various ways be made good, but a margin of profit can be left over. No wonder then that coffee transport contracts are at a premium.

4. If the planter was in a position to protect his own interests, the proper course would be to tell him to do so, but he is not in such a position, because:-

I. As a capitalist the planter cannot be expected to travel down to the coast with each consignment of crop. His Estate has to be looked after &c. &c.

II. The planter cannot as a matter of fact get people whom he can trust to travel down with each consignment because every native of the soil looks upon him as a foreigner and a person to be cheated* whenever that can be done with impunity, and because it is too expensive a business to entertain for the purpose persons of his own race whom he could trust.

III. Any other scheme which has yet been suggested fails for the reason that it does not pay. Under these circumstances it is necessary to do something to help the planter, who, as a

capitalist-

capitalist, is doing his best to develop the resources of the country, and I am, and have been all along, an advocate for the extension of the Coffee-Tasting Prevention Act to the low country. Saloko of this district because no extra establishment is required to work it and because without a shadow of injustice to any one it attains the end in view.

6. The increase to the Police force, for which I submit an estimate, will enable us better to control the traffic than at present, but I do not expect that even with it and with the earnest notice taken of all cases successfully presented we shall be able quite to stop the practice of "sweating" the coffee en route.

7. In conclusion I have the honour to observe that the fact that the coffee is "sweated" at various places between the foot of the Ghats and the coast towns has long been well known both to the ^{Police} officers and to myself. Now the receivers with the help is pointed out by the Superintendent of Police in para 7 of his letter enclosed. If the men kept large stores of coffee in out of the way spots on these roads it would be possible to deal with them to some extent, but they are too cunning for that and the "sweated"

coffee

coffee is always run into the coast towns at once and most frequently perhaps in the very carts that are taking the planters' coffee to the curing yards.

8. You will note what the Superintendent says in para 8 of his letter that Mr. Grant did not lay a single charge of theft notwithstanding the many instances he has brought to notice of differences between quantities of coffee delivered on the Estates and the quantities delivered at the curing & yards. He no doubt adopted the usual custom of fining his cart contractors; but I would with all submission and respect urge that it is unjust to the District Officers to hold them responsible for not detecting thefts which were never reported to them.

Yours &c,
W. H. Morgan District Magistrate.

Mr. Morgan has written the above letter before handing over charge and I forward it unaltered as Government may desire to know Mr. Morgan's views on the subject and as I agree with him in all that he has stated. I have already recommended the extension of the Act to the low country and I feel certain that it would be more effective than

The employment of the additional Police horse now proposed was
estimated to cost over £14,000 a year

Browallie's
Acting District Magistrate

Submitted 7 February 1881 -

Ad. C. (1881) / Sep 6 -
(Coffee-Stealing)
R. D. C. 17

13 FEB 81

From
The District Magistrate
Malabar

So 1849 / 101. 20
So 2007 / 101
The Chief Secretary to Government
Fort St. George

dated - 7th February 1881
Local 10

For: 10/2/81

Coffee Stealing Prevention Act. Advocating
the extension of the — to the low-
country districts of Malabar.

Judl. Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

READ the following letter

From the District Magistrate,
Malabar, dt 7th Feb/81.
No. 407.

Order thereon 6th Sept. 1881
(1881/407)

As recommended by the
Dist. Officer of Malabar,
the Govt will be pleased to
sanction the extension
of the Coffee Stealing Act
to the lowland tracts tra-
versed by the coffee in
transit to the coast.
The Govt however considers
that it will be sufficient
to apply the Act to these

main roads from
Wynand to the coast.

The collector will accordingly
report, at an early date,
if this is not enough;
& what roads etc he
specified in the report.

J.P. ¹⁸⁹⁴

To Gov. of Malabar - dated 6/9
Copy to Mr. J. Perdes 9/9

L. J. Perdes 10/9

J.P.

21.8.98 ✓
28 2 27
25-6-43 ✓

Gobt. of 1887 Madras.

Handwritten signature

DISPATCHED
SEP 21
BY G.O. NO. 1849.
1887, No.
Nos. *Handwritten mark*

7/2/29 02/01

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