(1) பக்கங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை 46

(2) புதுக்கித் திருப்பிய நாள் 21-12-88

(3) ஆதாரங்குறிப்பவர் சருக்கொப்பம் [illegible]

தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு

~~Revenue~~ P.W.D

பொதுப் பணித் துறை

அரசாணை எண். 668	அச்சகம்
மு. கோப்புத் தாள் எண்.	பலவகை

நாள் : 3.3.1990 19 .

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மடிக்கவோ கண்டபடி கையாளவோ கூடாது

அலை, எண்-1—18,000—15-2-87.

639/1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—again the following G.O., dated 17th September 1888, No. 5526, Mis., Revenue:—

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), dated 18th May 1888, No. 3114, Mis.:—

THE HON. W. S. WHITESIDE.

Read—the following letter from Colonel J. BEATTY, R.E., Superintending Engineer, IV Circle, to the Collector of Malabar, dated Ootacamund, 21st April 1888, No. 133-M.:—

Adverting to G.O., No. 2491 W., of the 22nd October 1885, I have the honor to forward, for transmission to Government for sanction, two plans and an estimate, amounting to Rs. 29,590, for constructing a second-class taluk cutcherry with out-houses at Manantoddy, together with a report, specification, site plan and general abstract estimate in duplicate.

2. The type design of the second-class cutcherry approved of in G.O., No. 1602 W., of 15th January 1887, has been adopted and additional accommodation provided for the extra number of gumastahs required at this place. A treasury room with passage and another room for Sheristadar have been added apparently at your suggestion.

3. The out-houses are to be of the standard design, circulated with G.O., No. 1014, of 20th April 1874.

4. Shaw's patent wire-fencing 4 feet high, 6 lines of wires with iron gate, has also been provided in the estimate for enclosing the compound.

Endorsement by H. M. WINTERBOTHAM, Esq., Acting Collector of Malabar, dated Calicut, 27th April 1888, No. 1167-P.

True copy submitted to the Commissioners of Land Revenue.

2. Until settlement of the pending question as to the transfer of the Wynaad to the Nílgiris and the suitability of Manantoddy as the head-quarters of the Divisional-officer, it would appear unadvisable to build any new public offices at Manantoddy.

If the head-quarters of the Divisional-officer be moved elsewhere, the cutcherry at Manantoddy now occupied by him can be converted into a cutcherry for the Tahsildar.

3. With regard to the item *roofing* in the specification, I think zinc sheets should take the place of the white cedar plank ceiling, beneath the Mission-tiles. It has recently been found in the Forest-officer's bungalow that the rain beats in under the Mission-tiles, and even if the plank ceiling be water-tight, I think the wet would soon warp and decay the wood.

Resolution—dated 18th May 1888, No. 3114, Mis.

The plans and estimate for constructing a second-class taluk office with out-houses at Manantoddy at a cost of Rs. 29,590 are submitted to Government.

2. In the circumstances stated in paragraph 2 of the Collector's endorsement, dated 27th April 1888, No. 1167-P., the Board agree with him in considering that the

estimate should lie over pending settlement of the question now before Government as to the transfer of Malabar-Wynaad to the Nílgiris and the suitability of Manantoddy for the head-quarters of the Divisional-officer.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. A. SIM,
Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with letter and enclosures, in original (to be returned).

Copy to the Collector of Malabar.

Order—dated 17th September 1888, No. 5526, Mis., Revenue.

The proposal to transfer the Malabar-Wynaad to the Nílgiri district has since been negatived, but before approving the plans and estimates for the construction of a new taluk cutcherry at Manantoddy submitted with the Proceedings of the Board above read, the Government desire, with reference to paragraph 2 of the Collector's endorsement, to have the definite opinion of Mr. Winterbotham and the Board as to (1) the advisability of moving the head-quarters of the Deputy Collector to Vayitri, where the District Munsif is located, or to some other station; and (2) the practicability and probable cost of converting the Deputy Collector's office into a taluk cutcherry.

2. The Collector will also report as to the sufficiency of the accommodation provided in the plans and estimates submitted for the taluk establishment and records as well as for the police in regard to which the Superintendent of Police should be consulted. The provision made in the estimates for a sub-jail latrine and a ryots' shed appears to be unnecessary with reference to the orders noted on the margin.

G.O., dated 29th September 1882, No. 1430, Judicial.
G.O., dated 7th June 1888, No. 1681 W., Public Works Department.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Commissioners of Land Revenue, with nine enclosures.
„ the Judicial Department.

READ—also the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), dated 3rd December 1889, No. 846 :—

MR. H. W. BLISS.

Read—the following letter from H. M. WINTERBOTHAM, Esq., Collector of Malabar, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, dated Calicut, 18th November 1889, No. 3784-P. :—

I have the honor to submit the report called for in the Board's Proceedings, dated 11th October 1888, Land Revenue, No. 6077, Mis. I regret the delay, which has been caused by my being hindered by other work from visiting the Wynaad till the beginning of the current month.

2. The first question is whether the Revenue Divisional-officer's head-quarters should be moved from Manantoddy, and, if so, whither. Government answered this question in the negative in G.O., dated 11th September 1874, No. 1865. The building now used by the Deputy Collector as a residence and cutcherry was then proceeded with, and was completed in 1877-78 at a cost, in round numbers, of Rs. 22,000.

3. The only particular occasion for reopening the question at present is the pressing necessity for providing suitable accommodation for the Tahsildar and his establishment. If the Deputy Collector's head-quarters are to be moved from Manantoddy, his office might undoubtedly be converted into a sufficiently commodious taluk cutcherry at a comparatively small outlay. All that would be required would be the addition of a subsidiary jail, and the conversion of one of the rooms into a strong room for the treasury.

4. There seems to be now a tolerable unanimity of official and European opinion as to where the Deputy Collector's head-quarters should be placed if moved from Manantoddy. Mr. Ballard, when Collector, was in favor of a site about 7 miles east of Kalpetta on the road between that place and Sultan's Battery. It is a lovely park-like country, of open billowy hills of short grass, with scattered clumps of trees and bamboos. The site is central, and beautiful; but the grass hills aforesaid produce nothing of value, and support no population. The place would possess the doubtful advantage of being equally inconvenient and inaccessible to everybody; both native and European, and may be at once discarded from further consideration. Mr. MacGregor selected the summit of the Askern hill, an isolated ridge on the road between Vayitri and Kalpetta, about 4 miles from the former place and 2½ miles from the latter. Mr. Logan advocated the same place. So does the Deputy Collector, and so, I think, do Mr. Castlestuart Stuart and a majority of the European planters. The advantages are—

(1) The top of the hill is well elevated and is probably by far the healthiest site to be got near a main road, and in anything like a central position.
(2) It is easily accessible from all sides.
(3) The large bazaar of Kalpetta is distant less than an hour's walk, and will afford shelter for clerks, vakils and parties.
(4) It is close to the new Gúdalúr-Vayitri imperial road.
(5) The rainfall is probably 30 per cent. less than at Vayitri.
(6) There is said to be a perennial supply of good water near the hill-top.

5. The hill forms part of the Perindotty estate, and belongs to Messrs. Parry and Co. It is uncultivated and most of it is now covered with a dense growth of lantana. Nothing can be made out of the land by agriculture, and I should say it is not worth more than Rs. 20 per acre. To clear 20 acres of the hill, make zig-zag roads to the top, and sink a well, would cost probably Rs. 3,000; and a combined office and residence would cost about Rs. 24,000. I dare say the job would not be well finished much under Rs. 30,000. After a while some native houses and shops might grow up around the place, and the absence of native accommodation would be less felt. If a move is to take place I should give my vote for this site. The European planters are now located in the south of the taluk between Vayitri and Meppádi. Gúdalúr is spoken of as likely to become shortly a railway terminus, and the opening of the imperial road from Gúdalúr to Calicut is certain to lead to increased commercial and planting activity in the south of the taluk. The Deputy Magistrate, who is the only justice of the peace, ought no doubt to be within easy reach of the European community, over whom he alone has magisterial jurisdiction. So much may be said for the move.

6. On the other hand, coffee planting is still a most uncertain and fluctuating industry. The bush will not live if left to itself, as many thousands of abandoned acres in North and West Wynaad testify. With high farming it will flourish, but high farming depends on high prices. If the present high prices continue, there will be an influx of capital, and, as Mr. Logan once pointed * out, there may soon be again as many Europeans in North Wynaad as in South.

* *Vide* Board's Proceedings, dated 27th February 1885, No. 679.

7. I cannot myself see that there is any decided advantage to be gained by shifting the Divisional-officer's head-quarters. There are good bungalows, or rest-houses all over the taluk, and the Divisional-officer will always spend at least half the month in travelling. As a matter of fact, the Deputy Magistrate has very rarely to exercise jurisdiction as justice of the peace, perhaps not oftener than once or twice in the year. At Vayitri there is a first-class magistrate, who can dispose of all first-class cases, except where a European is the accused. Many considerable advantages

accrue from the Divisional-officer being stationed at the same place as the taluk establishment. It facilitates effective supervision on his part, diminishes correspondence, places the taluk records and all sources of information conveniently at hand, and greatly promotes the despatch of business between the Collector and Tahsildar (which must pass through the Divisional-officer). To the native public it is a great thing to have the chief revenue and magisterial officer at a place where all castes can obtain food and lodging, and where legal advice and assistance (of a sort) can always be obtained. Finally, there is the undoubted fact that the present site of the Deputy Collector's office is one of the healthiest (or perhaps, I should say, least feverish) to be found on the Wynaad plateau. On the whole, I think the balance of advantage is against moving the Divisional-officer's head-quarters from Manantoddy, and I recommend that the construction of the taluk cutcherry be proceeded with.

8. The plan and estimate provide sufficiently for present requirements. It is understood that the double yellow line across the police room indicates a partition. It is necessary that the police should have an enclosed room where arms, accoutrements, records, &c., may be secured.

9. The accommodation for records may, I think, have to be extended, but if this is found necessary, it will be easy to add the usual wing-room.

10. I think the public latrine (Rs. 1,178) is not required. An adequate scavenging establishment is never sanctioned, and wherever an attempt is made to use these latrines they prove a nuisance to the neighbourhood. The plan is radically bad, and wherever such a latrine is attached to a public office in Malabar it is of necessity kept closed. There is ample open ground in the vicinity, which dispenses with the occasion for a latrine, as a trench and tatty-screen serve the purpose better.

11. On the other hand, a ryots' shed in such a climate as that at Manantoddy is a real necessity; but I cannot think that so large an outlay as Rs. 1,826 is required. A smaller and much cheaper style of building would answer the purpose. The plans and estimates are herewith returned.

ENCLOSURES NOS. 1 TO 8.—Plans, estimates, &c.

Resolution—dated 3rd December 1889, No. 846.

In G.O., 17th September 1888, No. 5526, communicated to the Collector of Malabar in Board's Proceedings, 11th October 1888, No. 6077, Mis., the Government called for the definite opinion of Mr. Winterbotham and of the Board as to (1) the advisability of removing the head-quarters of the Wynaad Deputy Collector to Vayitri, where the District Munsif is located, or to some other station; and (2) the practicability and probable cost of converting the Deputy Collector's office into a taluk cutcherry.

2. In the letter above read, the Collector, after explaining the delay which has occurred in his reply to the reference made to him by Government, points out that the question of removing the Deputy Collector from Manantoddy to Vayitri was raised so far back as 1874 and was then answered in the negative; and states that the only particular reason for reopening that question is the pressing necessity of providing suitable accommodation for the Tahsildar and his establishment, which can be done, if the Deputy Collector is moved, at a comparatively small outlay, the only requirements being the erection of a subsidiary jail and the conversion of a room into a strong room for the treasury.

3. As to the advisability of moving the Deputy Collector's head-quarters, the Collector discusses the different other stations which have been proposed for that officer. The site on Askern hill appears to present some advantages. It is healthy (for the Wynaad); it is close to the new Gúdalúr-Vayitri road; the rainfall is probably 30 per cent. less than at Vayitri; and the water-supply is said to be good. But the fact, which the Collector states as an advantage of the site, that it is $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the Kalpetta bazaar, appears to the Board to be a conclusive disadvantage. In such a climate as that of the Wynaad during a great part of the year, it would be a positive cruelty to compel clerks and parties to cases to proceed $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles daily

to the Deputy Collector's office and back again; nor would the adoption of this site lead to any pecuniary saving.

4. On the whole, however, the Collector is in favor of leaving the Deputy Collector where he is; and in this the Board agrees with him. It is for the advocates of change to justify it by convincing arguments. But in this case there appears to be no strong feeling on the part of any person or class of the community in favor of the change, and no arguments for it are adduced in addition to those which have already been considered and decided against; and the advantage of retaining the Deputy Collector in the same station as the Tahsildar is unquestionable.

5. The Collector was also called upon for report as to the sufficiency of the accommodation both for revenue and for police requirements, and on the latter point he was instructed to consult the Superintendent of Police.

6. It is not clear that the Collector did consult the Superintendent of Police. He remarks, however, that the police require an enclosed room for the custody of arms, accoutrements, &c., and that the double yellow line across the police room is understood to indicate a partition. Obviously, however, the double yellow line indicates a main beam of the roof and no enclosed room is provided for the police.

7. As regards the accommodation for the records, the Collector thinks that it may have to be extended, but that, if this is found necessary, it will be easy to add the usual wing-room. It is notorious, however, that nothing in the way of building is more expensive, or produces more generally unsatisfactory results, than additions to and alterations of buildings. Whatever is necessary for the custody of the records for a considerable time to come—say for the next fifty years—ought, therefore, in the Board's opinion, to be built at once. The accommodation now provided is a single room of 15′ × 14′ 3″, the wall spaces of which tiny apartment are so cut up by doors (4) and windows (2) as materially to diminish the space which will be available in it for record racks. The record room and its doors are also so placed that the room will certainly be used as a passage between the Sheristadar's and the clerks' rooms. This is most objectionable. Three of the doors should certainly be walled-up. One door is quite enough for a room of the size, and this should open into the room where the Sheristadar will sit, who is the officer specially responsible for the taluk records. The windows should be iron-barred, for security's sake.

8. As the Collector points out, a ryots' shed, or, in other words, a waiting room, is a necessary adjunct of a court-house in the Wynaad. The size of the proposed building is not extravagant—30′ × 16′. If money can be saved by the adoption of a cheaper style of building it will, of course, be well. But in any case, the ventilation openings in the walls should be much smaller, and not come down below the protection of the eaves, or the building will be unusable in the rains, especially as it is proposed that one of its sides, in which the ventilators will be placed, shall face towards the west, so that the monsoon rains will beat right through them.

9. Another serious objection to the design of the building, which has escaped the notice of the Collector, is that the Sheristadar's room is so placed, with a passage between it and the treasury, that it will be impossible for that officer to see what is going on in the treasury. The Sheristadar is responsible for all treasury payments, but he cannot sit all day in the treasury room. He has other work to attend to. He should therefore be so placed that, while attending to his other work, he can at the same time see what is going on in the treasury. The Board found it necessary only the other day (Board's Proceedings, dated 15th November 1889, No. 797) to suspend a Taluk Sheristadar because he did not properly supervise the treasury transactions. But in such a building as that proposed for the Manantoddy taluk cutcherry it will be impossible for the Sheristadar to do so.

10. A further objection to the design is the entire absence of fire-places and glass windows, both of which, if the Board is not mistaken, are needed in the Wynaad throughout the greater part of the year. Without fire-places the native clerks will not be able to keep themselves warm in the rains and cold weather; and unless glass windows are provided for the rooms, work will often be impeded, if not be rendered impossible, from want of light, when the doors and window shutters are closed to keep out the rain and damp. The fact that the south-west monsoon is severely felt in the

Wynaad seems, in fact, never to have occurred to any of the officers responsible for these designs and estimates, for the site-plan shows that the building is faced due east and west, so that every room in it, except the court room, will be exposed to almost the full force of the rains.

11. The provision of fire-places and glass windows may add to the cost of the building. But on the other hand, considerable savings may be made by the adoption of a design less entirely unsuitable to the locality. It is quite unnecessary, for instance, to provide in a cold and extremely wet climate for the large number of doors proposed. In the court room there are to be five doors, but no windows; in the clerks' room six doors and two windows; in the Sheristadar's room four doors and two windows. There should be fewer doors and more windows. This will save expense. One door should suffice for the treasury and no doors are needed for the passage between the treasury and the Sheristadar's room. This is intended to enable the police guard to go right round the treasury room. But if proper iron safes are provided, this passage will not be required; and in any case no iron doors can be wanted, since it cannot be intended to close them, either to keep the police guard out or to keep it in. A large saving may also be obtained by abandoning the special single room feature of the design, if the Board may so style it. In a hot place, it may be necessary to string all the rooms of a building out in a line, so that there may be a free current of air through each one. But in the Wynaad this can hardly be essential. The proposed disposition of the rooms in a long line probably adds about 30 per cent. to the cost of the longitudinal foundations and walls, and materially increases the proportion borne by the ineffective verandah area to the effective room area.

12. The Board, therefore, ventures to recommend that a fresh design be called from the Public Works Department. The present Government Architect, with his great experience of building in the hills, would no doubt be able to furnish a plan far more suitable to the locality than that of a building designed to be erected in the plains.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) M. HAMMICK,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with 8 enclosures (plans, estimates, &c.).
Copy to the Collector of Malabar.

READ—also the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), dated 9th January 1890, No. 79, Mis.:—

MR. H. W. BLISS.

Read—the following letter from G. ROMILLY, Esq., Honorary Secretary, Wynaad Planters' Association, to the Collector of Malabar, dated Meppádi, 10th December 1889:—

At a meeting of our association held on the 4th instant, I mentioned that I had heard from you that you had finally recommended to Government that the new taluk buildings should be built at Manantoddy. I was then instructed to address you on the subject and to protest in the name of our association against the proposed site on the grounds—

(i) That Manantoddy is far removed from the centre of the district and from the new main road in the course of construction;

(ii) That there is an overwhelming preponderance of European planters in the south of the district and that a rush of capital into coffee industry such as may be expected owing to the ruling high prices would mean a further increase of the European inhabitants of the south.

2. I believe that you admit that the Deputy Magistrate, who is the only justice of the peace, ought to be within easy reach of the European community, but, on the other hand, you consider that if there was an influx of capital into the coffee industry, there might soon be as many Europeans in the north as in the south.

3. It is against this argument that we venture to protest; what little land there is at Manantoddy, or near it, suitable for coffee is mostly Government reserve, and no company, however rich, would dream, at present prices, of trying to reclaim the land abandoned to lantana; whereas on this side of the country, there is still a great deal of fine forest untouched, and other land fit for coffee planting in the hands of private owners.

4. We would therefore respectfully request that you would inquire a little further into the subject before allowing the new buildings to be commenced.

5. The preponderance of European inhabitants in the south is already very great and may in a few years become so much greater as to necessitate the head-quarters of official business gravitating with the centre of the industrial prosperity of the district. The extra costs of erecting the buildings on this side of the district would now be but slight, but if a blunder is now made, the cost of removing them hereafter might be prohibitive.

Endorsement by H. M. WINTERBOTHAM, Esq., Collector of M bar, dated Calicut, 14th December 1889, No. 4166-P.

True copy submitted to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, in continuation of my letter, dated 18th November 1889, No. 3784-P.

Resolution—dated 9th January 1890, No. 79, Mis.

Submitted to Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 3rd December 1889, No. 846.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) M. HAMMICK,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with letter, in original (to be returned).
Copy to the Collector of Malabar.

READ—also the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), dated 24th January 1890, No. 455, Mis.:—

MR. H. W. BLISS.

Read—the following letter from G. ROMILLY, Esq., Honorary Secretary, Wynaad Planters' Association, to the Collector of Malabar, dated Meppádi, 10th January 1890:—

In addressing you on the 10th December last, I see that I inadvertently spoke of the new taluk buildings, whereas I was instructed to address you on the subject of the new Deputy Collector's office.

2. Since writing to you I have received from your office a copy of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 3rd December 1889, No. 846.

3. In paragraph 4 of these Proceedings, the Board remark that "in this case there appears to be no strong feeling on the part of any person or class of the community in favor of the change, and no arguments for it are adduced in addition to those which have already been considered and decided against."

4. I sincerely trust that you have already represented to the Board that there is a very decided opinion amongst the European inhabitants of this district that the Deputy Magistrate should have his head-quarters in our midst, and not in an outlying station like Manantoddy.

5. I can only reiterate the arguments already adduced, and trust you will be good enough to forward them to the Board of Revenue before the new taluk buildings are sanctioned.

Endorsement by H. M. WINTERBOTHAM, Esq., Collector of Malabar, dated Calicut, 14th January 1890, No. 129-P.

Submitted to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, in continuation of my endorsement, No. 4166-P., dated 14th December 1889, disposed of in Board's Proceedings, dated 9th January 1890, No. 79, Mis.

Resolution—dated 24th January 1890, No. 455, Mis.

Submitted to Government in continuation of the Board's Proceedings quoted by the Collector.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) M. HAMMICK,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with letter, in original (to be returned).

Copy to the Collector of Malabar.

ORDER—dated 4th February 1890, No. 106, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

On a careful consideration of the above papers, His Excellency the Governor in Council concurs with the Board in considering that it is best on the whole to retain Manantoddy as the head-quarters of the Deputy Collector of Wynaad and that accordingly a new office should be built for the Tahsildar at that station.

2. The Government also agrees with the Board in considering that the design of the proposed building is quite unsuited to the locality and that a revised design suitable to the climate of Wynaad should be prepared. The necessary orders for this purpose will be issued in the Public Works Department.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Public Works Department, with enclosures.
„ the Commissioners of Land Revenue.
„ the Judicial Department.

Exd. W. J. Lewis.

60 Copies.

Govt. of {1890} Madras.

REVENUE.

Issued

Recd *Encl.*

G.O., 4th February 1890, No. 106.

FEBRUARY.

New Taluk Cutcherry, Manantoddy.

Concurrence expressed in the Board's opinion that it is best to retain Manantoddy as head-quarters of the Deputy Collector of Wynaad and that a new office should be built there for the Tahsildar; the design of the proposed building considered unsuited to the locality; the necessary orders for its revision to issue from the Public Works Department.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—again the following G.O., dated 17th September 1888, No. 5526, Mis., Revenue:—

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), dated 18th May 1888, No. 3114, Mis.:—

THE HON. W. S. WHITESIDE.

Read—the following letter from Colonel J. BEATTY, R.E., Superintending Engineer, IV Circle, to the Collector of Malabar, dated Ootacamund, 21st April 1888, No. 133-M.:—

Adverting to G.O., No. 2491 W., of the 22nd October 1885, I have the honor to forward, for transmission to Government for sanction, two plans and an estimate, amounting to Rs. 29,590, for constructing a second-class taluk cutcherry with out-houses at Manantoddy, together with a report, specification, site plan and general abstract estimate in duplicate.

2. The type design of the second-class cutcherry approved of in G.O., No. 1602 W., of 15th January 1887, has been adopted and additional accommodation provided for the extra number of gumastahs required at this place. A treasury room with passage and another room for Sheristadar have been added apparently at your suggestion.

3. The out-houses are to be of the standard design, circulated with G.O., No. 1014, of 20th April 1874.

4. Shaw's patent wire-fencing 4 feet high, 6 lines of wires with iron gate, has also been provided in the estimate for enclosing the compound.

Endorsement by H. M. WINTERBOTHAM, Esq., Acting Collector of Malabar, dated Calicut, 27th April 1888, No. 1167-P.

True copy submitted to the Commissioners of Land Revenue.

2. Until settlement of the pending question as to the transfer of the Wynaad to the Nilgiris and the suitability of Manantoddy as the head-quarters of the Divisional-officer, it would appear unadvisable to build any new public offices at Manantoddy.

If the head-quarters of the Divisional-officer be moved elsewhere, the cutcherry at Manantoddy now occupied by him can be converted into a cutcherry for the Tahsildar.

3. With regard to the item *roofing* in the specification, I think zinc sheets should take the place of the white cedar plank ceiling, beneath the Mission-tiles. It has recently been found in the Forest-officer's bungalow that the rain beats in under the Mission-tiles, and even if the plank ceiling be water-tight, I think the wet would soon warp and decay the wood.

Resolution—dated 18th May 1888, No. 3114, Mis.

The plans and estimate for constructing a second-class taluk office with out-houses at Manantoddy at a cost of Rs. 29,590 are submitted to Government.

2. In the circumstances stated in paragraph 2 of the Collector's endorsement, dated 27th April 1888, No. 1167-P., the Board agree with him in considering that the

estimate should lie over pending settlement of the question now before Government as to the transfer of Malabar-Wynaad to the Nílgiris and the suitability of Manantoddy for the head-quarters of the Divisional-officer.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. A. SIM,
Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with letter and enclosures, in original (to be returned).
Copy to the Collector of Malabar.

Order—dated 17th September 1888, No. 5526, Mis., Revenue:

The proposal to transfer the Malabar-Wynaad to the Nílgiri district has since been negatived, but before approving the plans and estimates for the construction of a new taluk cutcherry at Manantoddy submitted with the Proceedings of the Board above read, the Government desire, with reference to paragraph 2 of the Collector's endorsement, to have the definite opinion of Mr. Winterbotham and the Board as to (1) the advisability of moving the head-quarters of the Deputy Collector to Vayitri, where the District Munsif is located, or to some other station; and (2) the practicability and probable cost of converting the Deputy Collector's office into a taluk cutcherry.

2. The Collector will also report as to the sufficiency of the accommodation provided in the plans and estimates submitted for the taluk establishment and records as well as for the police in regard to which the Superintendent of Police should be consulted. The provision made in the estimates for a sub-jail latrine and a ryots' shed appears to be unnecessary with reference to the orders noted on the margin.

G.O., dated 29th September 1882, No. 1430, Judicial.
G.O., dated 7th June 1888, No. 1681 W., Public Works Department.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Commissioners of Land Revenue, with nine enclosures.
„ the Judicial Department.

READ—also the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), dated 3rd December 1889, No. 846:—

MR. H. W. BLISS.

Read—the following letter from H. M. WINTERBOTHAM, Esq., Collector of Malabar, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, dated Calicut, 18th November 1889, No. 3784-P.:—

I have the honor to submit the report called for in the Board's Proceedings, dated 11th October 1888, Land Revenue, No. 6077, Mis. I regret the delay, which has been caused by my being hindered by other work from visiting the Wynaad till the beginning of the current month.

2. The first question is whether the Revenue Divisional-officer's head-quarters should be moved from Manantoddy, and, if so, whither. Government answered this question in the negative in G.O., dated 11th September 1874, No. 1865. The building now used by the Deputy Collector as a residence and cutcherry was then proceeded with, and was completed in 1877-78 at a cost, in round numbers, of Rs. 22,000.

3. The only particular occasion for reopening the question at present is the pressing necessity for providing suitable accommodation for the Tahsildar and his establishment. If the Deputy Collector's head-quarters are to be moved from Manantoddy, his office might undoubtedly be converted into a sufficiently commodious taluk cutcherry at a comparatively small outlay. All that would be required would be the addition of a subsidiary jail, and the conversion of one of the rooms into a strong room for the treasury.

4. There seems to be now a tolerable unanimity of official and European opinion as to where the Deputy Collector's head-quarters should be placed if moved from Manantoddy. Mr. Ballard, when Collector, was in favor of a site about 7 miles east of Kalpetta on the road between that place and Sultan's Battery. It is a lovely park-like country, of open billowy hills of short grass, with scattered clumps of trees and bamboos. The site is central, and beautiful; but the grass hills aforesaid produce nothing of value, and support no population. The place would possess the doubtful advantage of being equally inconvenient and inaccessible to everybody, both native and European, and may be at once discarded from further consideration. Mr. MacGregor selected the summit of the Askern hill, an isolated ridge on the road between Vayitri and Kalpetta, about 4 miles from the former place and 2½ miles from the latter. Mr. Logan advocated the same place. So does the Deputy Collector, and so, I think, do Mr. Castlestuart Stuart and a majority of the European planters. The advantages are—

(1) The top of the hill is well elevated and is probably by far the healthiest site to be got near a main road, and in anything like a central position.
(2) It is easily accessible from all sides.
(3) The large bazaar of Kalpetta is distant less than an hour's walk, and will afford shelter for clerks, vakils and parties.
(4) It is close to the new Gúdalúr-Vayitri imperial road.
(5) The rainfall is probably 30 per cent. less than at Vayitri.
(6) There is said to be a perennial supply of good water near the hill-top.

5. The hill forms part of the Perindotty estate, and belongs to Messrs. Parry and Co. It is uncultivated and most of it is now covered with a dense growth of lantana. Nothing can be made out of the land by agriculture, and I should say it is not worth more than Rs. 20 per acre. To clear 20 acres of the hill, make zig-zag roads to the top, and sink a well, would cost probably Rs. 3,000; and, a combined office and residence would cost about Rs. 24,000. I dare say the job would not be well finished much under Rs. 30,000. After a while some native houses and shops might grow up around the place, and the absence of native accommodation would be less felt. If a move is to take place I should give my vote for this site. The European planters are now located in the south of the taluk between Vayitri and Meppádi. Gúdalúr is spoken of as likely to become shortly a railway terminus, and the opening of the imperial road from Gúdalúr to Calicut is certain to lead to increased commercial and planting activity in the south of the taluk. The Deputy Magistrate, who is the only justice of the peace, ought no doubt to be within easy reach of the European community, over whom he alone has magisterial jurisdiction. So much may be said for the move.

6. On the other hand, coffee planting is still a most uncertain and fluctuating industry. The bush will not live if left to itself, as many thousands of abandoned acres in North and West Wynaad testify. With high farming it will flourish, but high farming depends on high prices. If the present high prices continue, there will be an influx of capital, and, as Mr. Logan once pointed * out, there may soon be again as many Europeans in North Wynaad as in South.

* *Vide* Board's Proceedings, dated 27th February 1885, No. 679.

7. I cannot myself see that there is any decided advantage to be gained by shifting the Divisional-officer's head-quarters. There are good bungalows, or rest-houses all over the taluk, and the Divisional-officer will always spend at least half the month in travelling. As a matter of fact, the Deputy Magistrate has very rarely to exercise jurisdiction as justice of the peace, perhaps not oftener than once or twice in the year. At Vayitri there is a first-class magistrate, who can dispose of all first-class cases, except where a European is the accused. Many considerable advantages

accrue from the Divisional-officer being stationed at the same place as the taluk establishment. It facilitates effective supervision on his part, diminishes correspondence, places the taluk records and all sources of information conveniently at hand, and greatly promotes the despatch of business between the Collector and Tahsildar (which must pass through the Divisional-officer). To the native public it is a great thing to have the chief revenue and magisterial officer at a place where all castes can obtain food and lodging, and where legal advice and assistance (of a sort) can always be obtained. Finally, there is the undoubted fact that the present site of the Deputy Collector's office is one of the healthiest (or perhaps, I should say, least feverish) to be found on the Wynaad plateau. On the whole, I think the balance of advantage is against moving the Divisional-officer's head-quarters from Manantoddy, and I recommend that the construction of the taluk cutcherry be proceeded with.

8. The plan and estimate provide sufficiently for present requirements. It is understood that the double yellow line across the police room indicates a partition. It is necessary that the police should have an enclosed room where arms, accoutrements, records, &c., may be secured.

9. The accommodation for records may, I think, have to be extended, but if this is found necessary, it will be easy to add the usual wing-room.

10. I think the public latrine (Rs. 1,178) is not required. An adequate scavenging establishment is never sanctioned, and wherever an attempt is made to use these latrines they prove a nuisance to the neighbourhood. The plan is radically bad, and wherever such a latrine is attached to a public office in Malabar it is of necessity kept closed. There is ample open ground in the vicinity, which dispenses with the occasion for a latrine, as a trench and tatty-screen serve the purpose better.

11. On the other hand, a ryots' shed in such a climate as that of Manantoddy is a real necessity; but I cannot think that so large an outlay as Rs. 1,826 is required. A smaller and much cheaper style of building would answer the purpose. The plans and estimates are herewith returned.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 1 TO 8.—Plans, estimates, &c.

Resolution—dated 3rd December 1889, No. 846.

In G.O., 17th September 1888, No. 5526, communicated to the Collector of Malabar in Board's Proceedings, 11th October 1888, No. 6077, Mis., the Government called for the definite opinion of Mr. Winterbotham and of the Board as to (1) the advisability of removing the head-quarters of the Wynaad Deputy Collector to Vayitri, where the District Munsif is located, or to some other station; and (2) the practicability and probable cost of converting the Deputy Collector's office into a taluk cutcherry.

2. In the letter above read, the Collector, after explaining the delay which has occurred in his reply to the reference made to him by Government, points out that the question of removing the Deputy Collector from Manantoddy to Vayitri was raised so far back as 1874 and was then answered in the negative; and states that the only particular reason for reopening that question is the pressing necessity of providing suitable accommodation for the Tahsildar and his establishment, which can be done, if the Deputy Collector is moved, at a comparatively small outlay, the only requirements being the erection of a subsidiary jail and the conversion of a room into a strong room for the treasury.

3. As to the advisability of moving the Deputy Collector's head-quarters, the Collector discusses the different other stations which have been proposed for that officer. The site on Askern hill appears to present some advantages. It is healthy (for the Wynaad); it is close to the new Gúdalúr-Vayitri road; the rainfall is probably 30 per cent. less than at Vayitri; and the water-supply is said to be good. But the fact, which the Collector states as an advantage of the site, that it is 2½ miles from the Kalpetta bazaar, appears to the Board to be a conclusive disadvantage. In such a climate as that of the Wynaad during a great part of the year, it would be a positive cruelty to compel clerks and parties to cases to proceed 2½ miles daily

to the Deputy Collector's office and back again; nor would the adoption of this site lead to any pecuniary saving.

4. On the whole, however, the Collector is in favor of leaving the Deputy Collector where he is; and in this the Board agrees with him. It is for the advocates of change to justify it by convincing arguments. But in this case there appears to be no strong feeling on the part of any person or class of the community in favor of the change, and no arguments for it are adduced in addition to those which have already been considered and decided against; and the advantage of retaining the Deputy Collector in the same station as the Tahsildar is unquestionable.

5. The Collector was also called upon for report as to the sufficieney of the accommodation both for revenue and for police requirements, and on the latter point he was instructed to consult the Superintendent of Police.

6. It is not clear that the Collector did consult the Superintendent of Police. He remarks, however, that the police require an enclosed room for the custody of arms, accoutrements, &c., and that the double yellow line across the police room is understood to indicate a partition. Obviously, however, the double yellow line indicates a main beam of the roof and no enclosed room is provided for the police.

7. As regards the accommodation for the records, the Collector thinks that it may have to be extended, but that, if this is found necessary, it will be easy to add the usual wing-room. It is notorious, however, that nothing in the way of building is more expensive, or produces more generally unsatisfactory results, than additions to and alterations of buildings. Whatever is necessary for the custody of the records for a considerable time to come—say for the next fifty years—ought, therefore, in the Board's opinion, to be built at once. The accommodation now provided is a single room of 15′ × 14′ 3″, the wall spaces of which tiny apartment are so cut up by doors (4) and windows (2) as materially to diminish the space which will be available in it for record racks. The record room and its doors are also so placed that the room will certainly be used as a passage between the Sheristadar's and the clerks' rooms. This is most objectionable. Three of the doors should certainly be walled-up. One door is quite enough for a room of the size, and this should open into the room where the Sheristadar will sit, who is the officer specially responsible for the taluk records. The windows should be iron-barred, for security's sake.

8. As the Collector points out, a ryots' shed, or, in other words, a waiting room, is a necessary adjunct of a court-house in the Wynaad. The size of the proposed building is not extravagant—30′ × 16′. If money can be saved by the adoption of a cheaper style of building it will, of course, be well. But in any case, the ventilation openings in the walls should be much smaller, and not come down below the protection of the eaves, or the building will be unusable in the rains, especially as it is proposed that one of its sides, in which the ventilators will be placed, shall face towards the west, so that the monsoon rains will beat right through them.

9. Another serious objection to the design of the building, which has escaped the notice of the Collector, is that the Sheristadar's room is so placed, with a passage between it and the treasury, that it will be impossible for that officer to see what is going on in the treasury. The Sheristadar is responsible for all treasury payments, but he cannot sit all day in the treasury room. He has other work to attend to. He should therefore be so placed that, while attending to his other work, he can at the same time see what is going on in the treasury. The Board found it necessary only the other day (Board's Proceedings, dated 15th November 1889, No. 797) to suspend a Taluk Sheristadar because he did not properly supervise the treasury transactions. But in such a building as that proposed for the Manantoddy taluk cutcherry it will be impossible for the Sheristadar to do so.

10. A further objection to the design is the entire absence of fire-places and glass windows, both of which, if the Board is not mistaken, are needed in the Wynaad throughout the greater part of the year. Without fire-places the native clerks will not be able to keep themselves warm in the rains and cold weather; and unless glass windows are provided for the rooms, work will often be impeded, if not be rendered impossible, from want of light, when the doors and window shutters are closed to keep out the rain and damp. The fact that the south-west monsoon is severely felt in the

Wynaad seems, in fact, never to have occurred to any of the officers responsible for these designs and estimates, for the site-plan shows that the building is faced due east and west, so that every room in it, except the court room, will be exposed to almost the full force of the rains.

11. The provision of fire-places and glass windows may add to the cost of the building. But on the other hand, considerable savings may be made by the adoption of a design less entirely unsuitable to the locality. It is quite unnecessary, for instance, to provide in a cold and extremely wet climate for the large number of doors proposed. In the court room there are to be five doors, but no windows; in the clerks' room six doors and two windows; in the Sheristadar's room four doors and two windows. There should be fewer doors and more windows. This will save expense. One door should suffice for the treasury and no doors are needed for the passage between the treasury and the Sheristadar's room. This is intended to enable the police guard to go right round the treasury room. But if proper iron safes are provided, this passage will not be required; and in any case no iron doors can be wanted, since it cannot be intended to close them, either to keep the police guard out or to keep it in. A large saving may also be obtained by abandoning the special single room feature of the design, if the Board may so style it. In a hot place, it may be necessary to string all the rooms of a building out in a line, so that there may be a free current of air through each one. But in the Wynaad this can hardly be essential. The proposed disposition of the rooms in a long line probably adds about 30 per cent. to the cost of the longitudinal foundations and walls, and materially increases the proportion borne by the ineffective verandah area to the effective room area.

12. The Board, therefore, ventures to recommend that a fresh design be called from the Public Works Department. The present Government Architect, with his great experience of building in the hills, would no doubt be able to furnish a plan far more suitable to the locality than that of a building designed to be erected in the plains.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) M. HAMMICK,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with 8 enclosures (plans, estimates, &c.).

Copy to the Collector of Malabar.

READ—also the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), dated 9th January 1890, No. 79, Mis.:—

MR. H. W. BLISS.

Read—the following letter from G. ROMILLY, Esq., Honorary Secretary, Wynaad Planters' Association, to the Collector of Malabar, dated Meppádi, 10th December 1889:—

At a meeting of our association held on the 4th instant, I mentioned that I had heard from you that you had finally recommended to Government that the new taluk buildings should be built at Manantoddy. I was then instructed to address you on the subject and to protest in the name of our association against the proposed site on the grounds—

(i) That Manantoddy is far removed from the centre of the district and from the new main road in the course of construction;

(ii) That there is an overwhelming preponderance of European planters in the south of the district and that a rush of capital into coffee industry such as may be expected owing to the ruling high prices would mean a further increase of the European inhabitants of the south.

2. I believe that you admit that the Deputy Magistrate, who is the only justice of the peace, ought to be within easy reach of the European community, but, on the other hand, you consider that if there was an influx of capital into the coffee industry, there might soon be as many Europeans in the north as in the south.

3. It is against this argument that we venture to protest; what little land there is at Manantoddy, or near it, suitable for coffee is mostly Government reserve, and no company, however rich, would dream, at present prices, of trying to reclaim the land abandoned to lantana; whereas on this side of the country, there is still a great deal of fine forest untouched, and other land fit for coffee planting in the hands of private owners.

4. We would therefore respectfully request that you would inquire a little further into the subject before allowing the new buildings to be commenced.

5. The preponderance of European inhabitants in the south is already very great and may in a few years become so much greater as to necessitate the head-quarters of official business gravitating with the centre of the industrial prosperity of the district. The extra costs of erecting the buildings on this side of the district would now be but slight, but if a blunder is now made, the cost of removing them hereafter might be prohibitive.

Endorsement by H. M. WINTERBOTHAM, Esq., Collector of Malabar, dated Calicut, 14th December 1889, No. 4166-P.

True copy submitted to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, in continuation of my letter, dated 18th November 1889, No. 3784-P.

Resolution—dated 9th January 1890, No. 79, Mis.

Submitted to Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 3rd December 1889, No. 846.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) M. HAMMICK,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with letter, in original (to be returned).

Copy to the Collector of Malabar.

READ—also the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), dated 24th January 1890, No. 455, Mis.:—

MR. H. W. BLISS.

Read—the following letter from G. ROMILLY, Esq., Honorary Secretary, Wynaad Planters' Association, to the Collector of Malabar, dated Meppádi, 10th January 1890:—

In addressing you on the 10th December last, I see that I inadvertently spoke of the new taluk buildings, whereas I was instructed to address you on the subject of the new Deputy Collector's office.

2. Since writing to you I have received from your office a copy of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 3rd December 1889, No. 846.

3. In paragraph 4 of these Proceedings, the Board remark that "in this case there appears to be no strong feeling on the part of any person or class of the community in favor of the change, and no arguments for it are adduced in addition to those which have already been considered and decided against."

4. I sincerely trust that you have already represented to the Board that there is a very decided opinion amongst the European inhabitants of this district that the Deputy Magistrate should have his head-quarters in our midst, and not in an outlying station like Manantoddy.

5. I can only reiterate the arguments already adduced, and trust you will be good enough to forward them to the Board of Revenue before the new taluk buildings are sanctioned.

Endorsement by H. M. WINTERBOTHAM, Esq., Collector of Malabar, dated Calicut, 14th January 1890, No. 129-P.

Submitted to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, in continuation of my endorsement, No. 4166-P., dated 14th December 1889, disposed of in Board's Proceedings, dated 9th January 1890, No. 79, Mis.

Resolution—dated 24th January 1890, No. 455, Mis.

Submitted to Government in continuation of the Board's Proceedings quoted by the Collector.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) M. HAMMICK,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with letter, in original (to be returned).
Copy to the Collector of Malabar.

ORDER—dated 4th February 1890, No. 106, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

On a careful consideration of the above papers, His Excellency the Governor in Council concurs with the Board in considering that it is best on the whole to retain Manantoddy as the head-quarters of the Deputy Collector of Wynaad and that accordingly a new office should be built for the Tahsildar at that station.

2. The Government also agrees with the Board in considering that the design of the proposed building is quite unsuited to the locality and that a revised design suitable to the climate of Wynaad should be prepared. The necessary orders for this purpose will be issued in the Public Works Department.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Public Works Department, with enclosures.
„ the Commissioners of Land Revenue.
„ the Judicial Department.

Exd. W. J. Lewis.

60 Copies.

669/10

Govt. of (1890) Madras.

REVENUE.

Issued

Recd Encl.

G.O., 4th February 1890, No. 106.

FEBRUARY.

Comt to the Consg. Archt: who will in communication with the Collector of Malabar and the S. E. IV Circle, submit a revised design and estimate for a second class taluk office at Manantoddy

1st/ R.R.G.D.B.

W.

New Taluk Cutcherry, Manantoddy.

Concurrence expressed in the Board's opinion that it is best to retain Manantoddy as head-quarters of the Deputy Collector of Wynaad and that a new office should be built there for the Tahsildar; the design of the proposed building considered unsuited to the locality; the necessary orders for its revision to issue from the Public Works Department.

The C. A. to Govt with 8 Encls.
" S. E. IV Circle
" Rev. Dept.

SRC 11/3.

668/11

4TH FEBRUARY 1890, No. 106, REVENUE.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—again the following G.O., dated 17th September 1888, No. 5526, Mis., Revenue:—

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), dated 18th May 1888, No. 3114, Mis.:—

THE HON. W. S. WHITESIDE.

Read—the following letter from Colonel J. BEATTY, R.E., Superintending Engineer, IV Circle, to the Collector of Malabar, dated Ootacamund, 21st April 1888, No. 133-M.:—

Adverting to G.O., No. 2491 W., of the 22nd October 1885, I have the honor to forward, for transmission to Government for sanction, two plans and an estimate, amounting to Rs. 29,590, for constructing a second-class taluk cutcherry with out-houses at Manantoddy, together with a report, specification, site plan and general abstract estimate in duplicate.

2. The type design of the second-class cutcherry approved of in G.O., No. 1602 W., of 15th January 1887, has been adopted and additional accommodation provided for the extra number of gumastahs required at this place. A treasury room with passage and another room for Sheristadar have been added apparently at your suggestion.

3. The out-houses are to be of the standard design, circulated with G.O., No. 1014, of 20th April 1874.

4. Shaw's patent wire-fencing 4 feet high, 6 lines of wires with iron gate, has also been provided in the estimate for enclosing the compound.

Endorsement by H. M. WINTERBOTHAM, Esq., Acting Collector of Malabar, dated Calicut, 27th April 1888, No. 1167-P.

True copy submitted to the Commissioners of Land Revenue.

2. Until settlement of the pending question as to the transfer of the Wynaad to the Nilgiris and the suitability of Manantoddy as the head-quarters of the Divisional-officer, it would appear unadvisable to build any new public offices at Manantoddy.

If the head-quarters of the Divisional-officer be moved elsewhere, the cutcherry at Manantoddy now occupied by him, can be converted into a cutcherry for the Tahsildar.

3. With regard to the item *roofing* in the specification, I think zinc sheets should take the place of the white cedar plank ceiling, beneath the Mission-tiles. It has recently been found in the Forest-officer's bungalow that the rain beats in under the Mission-tiles, and even if the plank ceiling be water-tight, I think the wet would soon warp and decay the wood.

Resolution—dated 18th May 1888, No. 3114, Mis.

The plans and estimate for constructing a second-class taluk office with out-houses at Manantoddy at a cost of Rs. 29,590 are submitted to Government.

2. In the circumstances stated in paragraph 2 of the Collector's endorsement, dated 27th April 1888, No. 1167-P., the Board agree with him in considering that the

estimate should lie over pending settlement of the question now before Government as to the transfer of Malabar-Wynaad to the Nílgiris and the suitability of Manantoddy for the head-quarters of the Divisional-officer.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. A. SIM,
Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with letter and enclosures, in original (to be returned).

Copy to the Collector of Malabar.

Order—dated 17th September 1888, No. 5526, Mis., Revenue.

The proposal to transfer the Malabar-Wynaad to the Nílgiri district has since been negatived, but before approving the plans and estimates for the construction of a new taluk cutcherry at Manantoddy submitted with the Proceedings of the Board above read, the Government desire, with reference to paragraph 2 of the Collector's endorsement, to have the definite opinion of Mr. Winterbotham and the Board as to (1) the advisability of moving the head-quarters of the Deputy Collector to Vayitri, where the District Munsif is located, or to some other station; and (2) the practicability and probable cost of converting the Deputy Collector's office into a taluk cutcherry.

2. The Collector will also report as to the sufficiency of the accommodation provided in the plans and estimates submitted for the taluk establishment and records as well as for the police in regard to which the Superintendent of Police should be consulted. The provision made in the estimates for a sub-jail latrine and a ryots shed appears to be unnecessary with reference to the orders noted on the margin.

G.O., dated 29th September 1882, No. 1430, Judicial.
G.O., dated 7th June 1888, No. 1681 W., Public Works Department.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Commissioners of Land Revenue, with nine enclosures.
„ the Judicial Department.

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Mr. H. W. Bliss.

Read—the following letter from H. M. WINTERBOTHAM, Esq., Collector of Malabar, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, dated Calicut, 18th November 1889, No. 3784-P.:—

I have the honor to submit the report called for in the Board's Proceedings, dated 11th October 1888, Land Revenue, No. 6077, Mis. I regret the delay, which has been caused by my being hindered by other work from visiting the Wynaad till the beginning of the current month.

2. The first question is whether the Revenue Divisional-officer's head-quarters should be moved from Manantoddy, and, if so, whither. Government answered this question in the negative in G.O., dated 11th September 1874, No. 1865. The building now used by the Deputy Collector as a residence and cutcherry was then proceeded with, and was completed in 1877-78 at a cost, in round numbers, of Rs. 22,000.

3. The only particular occasion for reopening the question at present is the pressing necessity for providing suitable accommodation for the Tahsildar and his establishment. If the Deputy Collector's head-quarters are to be moved from Manantoddy, his office might undoubtedly be converted into a sufficiently commodious taluk cutcherry at a comparatively small outlay. All that would be required would be the addition of a subsidiary jail, and the conversion of one of the rooms into a strong room for the treasury.

4. There seems to be now a tolerable unanimity of official and European opinion as to where the Deputy Collector's head-quarters should be placed if moved from Manantoddy. Mr. Ballard, when Collector, was in favor of a site about 7 miles east of Kalpetta on the road between that place and Sultan's Battery. It is a lovely park-like country, of open billowy hills of short grass, with scattered clumps of trees and bamboos. The site is central, and beautiful; but the grass hills aforesaid produce nothing of value, and support no population. The place would possess the doubtful advantage of being equally inconvenient and inaccessible to everybody, both native and European, and may be at once discarded from further consideration. Mr. MacGregor selected the summit of the Askern hill, an isolated ridge on the road between Vayitri and Kalpetta, about 4 miles from the former place and 2½ miles from the latter. Mr. Logan advocated the same place. So does the Deputy Collector, and so, I think, do Mr. Castlestuart Stuart and a majority of the European planters. The advantages are—

(1) The top of the hill is well elevated and is probably by far the healthiest site to be got near a main road, and in anything like a central position.
(2) It is easily accessible from all sides.
(3) The large bazaar of Kalpetta is distant less than an hour's walk, and will afford shelter for clerks, vakils and parties.
(4) It is close to the new Gúdalúr-Vayitri imperial road.
(5) The rainfall is probably 30 per cent. less than at Vayitri.
(6) There is said to be a perennial supply of good water near the hill-top.

5. The hill forms part of the Perindotty estate, and belongs to Messrs. Parry and Co. It is uncultivated and most of it is now covered with a dense growth of lantana. Nothing can be made out of the land by agriculture, and I should say it is not worth more than Rs. 20 per acre. To clear 20 acres of the hill, make zig-zag roads to the top, and sink a well, would cost probably Rs. 3,000; and a combined office and residence would cost about Rs. 24,000. I dare say the job would not be well finished much under Rs. 30,000. After a while some native houses and shops might grow up around the place, and the absence of native accommodation would be less felt. If a move is to take place I should give my vote for this site. The European planters are now located in the south of the taluk between Vayitri and Meppádi. Gúdalúr is spoken of as likely to become shortly a railway terminus, and the opening of the imperial road from Gúdalúr to Calicut is certain to lead to increased commercial and planting activity in the south of the taluk. The Deputy Magistrate, who is the only justice of the peace, ought no doubt to be within easy reach of the European community, over whom he alone has magisterial jurisdiction. So much may be said for the move.

6. On the other hand, coffee planting is still a most uncertain and fluctuating industry. The bush will not live if left to itself, as many thousands of abandoned acres in North and West Wynaad testify. With high farming it will flourish, but high farming depends on high prices. If the present high prices continue, there will be an influx of capital, and, as Mr. Logan once pointed * out, there may soon be again as many Europeans in North Wynaad as in South.

* *Vide* Board's Proceedings, dated 27th February 1885, No. 679.

7. I cannot myself see that there is any decided advantage to be gained by shifting the Divisional-officer's head-quarters. There are good bungalows, or rest-houses all over the taluk, and the Divisional-officer will always spend at least half the month in travelling. As a matter of fact, the Deputy Magistrate has very rarely to exercise jurisdiction as justice of the peace, perhaps not oftener than once or twice in the year. At Vayitri there is a first-class magistrate, who can dispose of all first-class cases, except where a European is the accused. Many considerable advantages

accrue from the Divisional-officer being stationed at the same place as the taluk establishment. It facilitates effective supervision on his part, diminishes correspondence, places the taluk records and all sources of information conveniently at hand, and greatly promotes the despatch of business between the Collector and Tahsildar (which must pass through the Divisional-officer). To the native public it is a great thing to have the chief revenue and magisterial officer at a place where all castes can obtain food and lodging, and where legal advice and assistance (of a sort) can always be obtained. Finally, there is the undoubted fact that the present site of the Deputy Collector's office is one of the healthiest (or perhaps, I should say, least feverish) to be found on the Wynaad plateau. On the whole, I think the balance of advantage is against moving the Divisional-officer's head-quarters from Manantoddy, and I recommend that the construction of the taluk cutcherry be proceeded with.

8. The plan and estimate provide sufficiently for present requirements. It is understood that the double yellow line across the police room indicates a partition. It is necessary that the police should have an enclosed room where arms, accoutrements, records, &c., may be secured.

9. The accommodation for records may, I think, have to be extended, but if this is found necessary, it will be easy to add the usual wing-room.

10. I think the public latrine (Rs. 1,178) is not required. An adequate scavenging establishment is never sanctioned, and wherever an attempt is made to use these latrines they prove a nuisance to the neighbourhood. The plan is radically bad, and wherever such a latrine is attached to a public office in Malabar it is of necessity kept closed. There is ample open ground in the vicinity, which dispenses with the occasion for a latrine, as a trench and tatty-screen serve the purpose better.

11. On the other hand, a ryots' shed in such a climate as that at Manantoddy is a real necessity; but I cannot think that so large an outlay as Rs. 1,826 is required. A smaller and much cheaper style of building would answer the purpose. The plans and estimates are herewith returned.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 1 TO 8.—Plans, estimates, &c.

Resolution—dated 3rd December 1889, No. 846.

In G.O., 17th September 1888, No. 5526, communicated to the Collector of Malabar in Board's Proceedings, 11th October 1888, No. 6077, Mis., the Government called for the definite opinion of Mr. Winterbotham and of the Board as to (1) the advisability of removing the head-quarters of the Wynaad Deputy Collector to Vayitri, where the District Munsif is located, or to some other station; and (2) the practicability and probable cost of converting the Deputy Collector's office into a taluk cutcherry.

2. In the letter above read, the Collector, after explaining the delay which has occurred in his reply to the reference made to him by Government, points out that the question of removing the Deputy Collector from Manantoddy to Vayitri was raised so far back as 1874 and was then answered in the negative; and states that the only particular reason for reopening that question is the pressing necessity of providing suitable accommodation for the Tahsildar and his establishment, which can be done, if the Deputy Collector is moved, at a comparatively small outlay, the only requirements being the erection of a subsidiary jail and the conversion of a room into a strong room for the treasury.

3. As to the advisability of moving the Deputy Collector's head-quarters, the Collector discusses the different other stations which have been proposed for that officer. The site on Askera hill appears to present some advantages. It is healthy (for the Wynaad); it is close to the new Gúdalúr-Vayitri road; the rainfall is probably 30 per cent. less than at Vayitri; and the water-supply is said to be good. But the fact, which the Collector states as an advantage of the site, that it is 2½ miles from the Kalpetta bazaar, appears to the Board to be a conclusive disadvantage. In such a climate as that of the Wynaad during a great part of the year, it would be a positive cruelty to compel clerks and parties to cases to proceed 2½ miles daily

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to the Deputy Collector's office and back again; nor would the adoption of this site lead to any pecuniary saving.

4. On the whole, however, the Collector is in favor of leaving the Deputy Collector where he is; and in this the Board agrees with him. It is for the advocates of change to justify it by convincing arguments. But in this case there appears to be no strong feeling on the part of any person or class of the community in favor of the change, and no arguments for it are adduced in addition to those which have already been considered and decided against; and the advantage of retaining the Deputy Collector in the same station as the Tahsildar is unquestionable.

5. The Collector was also called upon for report as to the sufficiency of the accommodation both for revenue and for police requirements, and on the latter point he was instructed to consult the Superintendent of Police.

6. It is not clear that the Collector did consult the Superintendent of Police. He remarks, however, that the police require an enclosed room for the custody of arms, accoutrements, &c., and that the double yellow line across the police room is understood to indicate a partition. Obviously, however, the double yellow line indicates a main beam of the roof and no enclosed room is provided for the police.

7. As regards the accommodation for the records, the Collector thinks that it may have to be extended, but that, if this is found necessary, it will be easy to add the usual wing-room. It is notorious, however, that nothing in the way of building is more expensive, or produces more generally unsatisfactory results, than additions to and alterations of buildings. Whatever is necessary for the custody of the records for a considerable time to come—say for the next fifty years—ought, therefore, in the Board's opinion, to be built at once. The accommodation now provided is a single room of 15′ × 14′ 3″, the wall spaces of which tiny apartment are so cut up by doors (4) and windows (2) as materially to diminish the space which will be available in it for record racks. The record room and its doors are also so placed that the room will certainly be used as a passage between the Sheristadar's and the clerks' rooms. This is most objectionable. Three of the doors should certainly be walled-up: One door is quite enough for a room of the size, and this should open into the room where the Sheristadar will sit, who is the officer specially responsible for the taluk records. The windows should be iron-barred, for security's sake.

8. As the Collector points out, a ryots' shed, or, in other words, a waiting room, is a necessary adjunct of a court-house in the Wynaad. The size of the proposed building is not extravagant—30′ × 16′. If money can be saved by the adoption of a cheaper style of building it will, of course, be well. But in any case, the ventilation openings in the walls should be much smaller, and not come down below the protection of the eaves, or the building will be unusable in the rains, especially as it is proposed that one of its sides, in which the ventilators will be placed, shall face towards the west, so that the monsoon rains will beat right through them.

9. Another serious objection to the design of the building, which has escaped the notice of the Collector, is that the Sheristadar's room is so placed, with a passage between it and the treasury, that it will be impossible for that officer to see what is going on in the treasury. The Sheristadar is responsible for all treasury payments, but he cannot sit all day in the treasury room. He has other work to attend to. He should therefore be so placed that, while attending to his other work, he can at the same time see what is going on in the treasury. The Board found it necessary only the other day (Board's Proceedings, dated 15th November 1889, No. 797) to suspend a Taluk Sheristadar because he did not properly supervise the treasury transactions. But in such a building as that proposed for the Manantoddy taluk cutcherry it will be impossible for the Sheristadar to do so.

10. A further objection to the design is the entire absence of fire-places and glass windows, both of which, if the Board is not mistaken, are needed in the Wynaad throughout the greater part of the year. Without fire-places the native clerks will not be able to keep themselves warm in the rains and cold weather; and unless glass windows are provided for the rooms, work will often be impeded, if not be rendered impossible, from want of light, when the doors and window shutters are closed to keep out the rain and damp. The fact that the south-west monsoon is severely felt in the

Wynaad seems, in fact, never to have occurred to any of the officers responsible for these designs and estimates, for the site-plan shows that the building is faced due east and west, so that every room in it, except the court room, will be exposed to almost the full force of the rains.

11. The provision of fire-places and glass windows may add to the cost of the building. But on the other hand, considerable savings may be made by the adoption of a design less entirely unsuitable to the locality. It is quite unnecessary, for instance, to provide in a cold and extremely wet climate for the large number of doors proposed. In the court room there are to be five doors, but no windows; in the clerks' room six doors and two windows; in the Sheristadar's room four doors and two windows. There should be fewer doors and more windows. This will save expense. One door should suffice for the treasury and no doors are needed for the passage between the treasury and the Sheristadar's room. This is intended to enable the police guard to go right round the treasury room. But if proper iron safes are provided, this passage will not be required; and in any case no iron doors can be wanted, since it cannot be intended to close them, either to keep the police guard out or to keep it in. A large saving may also be obtained by abandoning the special single room feature of the design, if the Board may so style it. In a hot place, it may be necessary to string all the rooms of a building out in a line, so that there may be a free current of air through each one. But in the Wynaad this can hardly be essential. The proposed disposition of the rooms in a long line probably adds about 30 per cent. to the cost of the longitudinal foundations and walls, and materially increases the proportion borne by the ineffective verandah area to the effective room area.

12. The Board, therefore, ventures to recommend that a fresh design be called from the Public Works Department. The present Government Architect, with his great experience of building in the hills, would no doubt be able to furnish a plan far more suitable to the locality than that of a building designed to be erected in the plains.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) M. HAMMICK,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with 8 enclosures (plans, estimates, &c.).

Copy to the Collector of Malabar.

READ—also the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), dated 9th January 1890, No. 79, Mis.:—

MR. H. W. BLISS.

Read—the following letter from G. ROMILLY, Esq., Honorary Secretary, Wynaad Planters' Association, to the Collector of Malabar, dated Meppádi, 10th December 1889:—

At a meeting of our association held on the 4th instant, I mentioned that I had heard from you that you had finally recommended to Government that the new taluk buildings should be built at Manantoddy. I was then instructed to address you on the subject and to protest in the name of our association against the proposed site on the grounds—

(i) That Manantoddy is far removed from the centre of the district and from the new main road in the course of construction;

(ii) That there is an overwhelming preponderance of European planters in the south of the district and that a rush of capital into coffee industry such as may be expected owing to the ruling high prices would mean a further increase of the European inhabitants of the south.

2. I believe that you admit that the Deputy Magistrate, who is the only justice of the peace, ought to be within easy reach of the European community, but, on the other hand, you consider that if there was an influx of capital into the coffee industry, there might soon be as many Europeans in the north as in the south.

3. It is against this argument that we venture to protest; what little land there is at Manantoddy, or near it, suitable for coffee is mostly Government reserve, and no company, however rich, would dream, at present prices, of trying to reclaim the land abandoned to lantana; whereas on this side of the country, there is still a great deal of fine forest untouched, and other land fit for coffee planting in the hands of private owners.

4. We would therefore respectfully request that you would inquire a little further into the subject before allowing the new buildings to be commenced.

5. The preponderance of European inhabitants in the south is already very great and may in a few years become so much greater as to necessitate the head-quarters of official business gravitating with the centre of the industrial prosperity of the district. The extra costs of erecting the buildings on this side of the district would now be but slight, but if a blunder is now made, the cost of removing them hereafter might be prohibitive.

Endorsement by H. M. WINTERBOTHAM, Esq., Collector of Malabar, dated Calicut, 14th December 1889, No. 4166-P.

True copy submitted to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, in continuation of my letter, dated 18th November 1889, No. 3784-P.

Resolution—dated 9th January 1890, No. 79, Mis.

Submitted to Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 3rd December 1889, No. 846.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) M. HAMMICK,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with letter, in original (to be returned).

Copy to the Collector of Malabar.

READ—also the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), dated 24th January 1890, No. 455, Mis.:—

MR. H. W. BLISS.

Read—the following letter from G. ROMILLY, Esq., Honorary Secretary, Wynaad Planters' Association, to the Collector of Malabar, dated Meppádi, 10th January 1890:—

In addressing you on the 10th December last, I see that I inadvertently spoke of the new taluk buildings, whereas I was instructed to address you on the subject of the new Deputy Collector's office.

2. Since writing to you I have received from your office a copy of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 3rd December 1889, No. 846.

3. In paragraph 4 of these Proceedings, the Board remark that "in this case there appears to be no strong feeling on the part of any person or class of the community in favor of the change, and no arguments for it are adduced in addition to those which have already been considered and decided against."

4. I sincerely trust that you have already represented to the Board that there is a very decided opinion amongst the European inhabitants of this district that the Deputy Magistrate should have his head-quarters in our midst, and not in an outlying station like Manantoddy.

5. I can only reiterate the arguments already adduced, and trust you will be good enough to forward them to the Board of Revenue before the new taluk buildings are sanctioned.

Endorsement by H. M. WINTERBOTHAM, Esq., Collector of Malabar, dated Calicut, 14th January 1890, No. 129-P.

Submitted to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, in continuation of my endorsement, No. 4166-P., dated 14th December 1889, disposed of in Board's Proceedings, dated 9th January 1890, No. 79, Mis.

Resolution—dated 24th January 1890, No. 455, Mis.

Submitted to Government in continuation of the Board's Proceedings quoted by the Collector.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) M. HAMMICK,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with letter, in original (to be returned).
Copy to the Collector of Malabar.

ORDER—dated 4th February 1890, No. 106, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

On a careful consideration of the above papers, His Excellency the Governor in Council concurs with the Board in considering that it is best on the whole to retain Manantoddy as the head-quarters of the Deputy Collector of Wynaad and that accordingly a new office should be built for the Tahsildar at that station.

2. The Government also agrees with the Board in considering that the design of the proposed building is quite unsuited to the locality and that a revised design suitable to the climate of Wynaad should be prepared. The necessary orders for this purpose will be issued in the Public Works Department.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Public Works Department, with enclosures.
„ the Commissioners of Land Revenue.
„ the Judicial Department.

Exd. W. J. Lewis.

60 Copies.

668/13

Govt. of {1890} Madras.

REVENUE.

Issued

Recd Encl.

G.O., 4th February 1890, No. 106.

FEBRUARY.

Comd to the Consg Archt. who will in communication with the Collector of Malabar and the S.E. IV Circle, submit a revised design and estimate for a second class taluk office at Manantoddy

1st/ R.R.B.D.B.

W.

New Taluk Cutcherry, Manantoddy.

Concurrence expressed in the Board's opinion that it is best to retain Manantoddy as head-quarters of the Deputy Collector of Wynaad and that a new office should be built there for the Tahsildar; the design of the proposed building considered unsuited to the locality; the necessary orders for its revision to issue from the Public Works Department.

The C.A. to forwt. with 8 enclos.

" S.E. IV Circle

" Rev. Dept:

66a/16

4TH FEBRUARY 1890, No. 106, REVENUE.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—again the following G.O., dated 17th September 1888, No. 5526, Mis., Revenue:—

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), dated 18th May 1888, No. 3114, Mis.:—

THE HON. W. S. WHITESIDE.

Read—the following letter from Colonel J. BEATTY, R.E., Superintending Engineer, IV Circle, to the Collector of Malabar, dated Ootacamund, 21st April 1888, No. 133-M.:—

Adverting to G.O., No. 2491 W., of the 22nd October 1885, I have the honor to forward, for transmission to Government for sanction, two plans and an estimate, amounting to Rs. 29,590, for constructing a second-class taluk cutcherry with out-houses at Manantoddy, together with a report, specification, site plan and general abstract estimate in duplicate.

2. The type design of the second-class cutcherry approved of in G.O., No. 1602 W., of 15th January 1887, has been adopted and additional accommodation provided for the extra number of gumastahs required at this place. A treasury room with passage and another room for Sheristadar have been added apparently at your suggestion.

3. The out-houses are to be of the standard design, circulated with G.O., No. 1014, of 20th April 1874.

4. Shaw's patent wire-fencing 4 feet high, 6 lines of wires with iron gate, has also been provided in the estimate for enclosing the compound.

Endorsement by H. M. WINTERBOTHAM, Esq., Acting Collector of Malabar, dated Calicut, 27th April 1888, No. 1167-P.

True copy submitted to the Commissioners of Land Revenue.

2. Until settlement of the pending question as to the transfer of the Wynaad to the Nilgiris and the suitability of Manantoddy as the head-quarters of the Divisional-officer, it would appear unadvisable to build any new public offices at Manantoddy.

If the head-quarters of the Divisional-officer be moved elsewhere, the cutcherry at Manantoddy now occupied by him can be converted into a cutcherry for the Tahsildar.

3. With regard to the item *roofing* in the specification, I think zinc sheets should take the place of the white cedar plank ceiling, beneath the Mission-tiles. It has recently been found in the Forest-officer's bungalow that the rain beats in under the Mission-tiles, and even if the plank ceiling be water-tight, I think the wet would soon warp and decay the wood.

Resolution—dated 18th May 1888, No. 3114, Mis.

The plans and estimate for constructing a second-class taluk office with out-houses at Manantoddy at a cost of Rs. 29,590 are submitted to Government.

2. In the circumstances stated in paragraph 2 of the Collector's endorsement, dated 27th April 1888, No. 1167-P., the Board agree with him in considering that the

estimate should lie over pending settlement of the question now before Government as to the transfer of Malabar-Wynaad to the Nilgiris and the suitability of Manantoddy for the head-quarters of the Divisional-officer.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. A. SIM,
Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with letter and enclosures, in original (to be returned).
Copy to the Collector of Malabar.

Order—dated 17th September 1888, No. 5526, Mis., Revenue.

The proposal to transfer the Malabar-Wynaad to the Nilgiri district has since been negatived, but before approving the plans and estimates for the construction of a new taluk cutcherry at Manantoddy submitted with the Proceedings of the Board above read, the Government desire, with reference to paragraph 2 of the Collector's endorsement, to have the definite opinion of Mr. Winterbotham and the Board as to (1) the advisability of moving the head-quarters of the Deputy Collector to Vayitri, where the District Munsif is located, or to some other station; and (2) the practicability and probable cost of converting the Deputy Collector's office into a taluk cutcherry.

2. The Collector will also report as to the sufficiency of the accommodation provided in the plans and estimates submitted for the taluk establishment and records as well as for the police in regard to which the Superintendent of Police should be consulted. The provision made in the estimates for a sub-jail latrine and a ryots' shed appears to be unnecessary with reference to the orders noted on the margin.

G.O., dated 29th September 1882, No. 1430, Judicial.
G.O., dated 7th June 1888, No. 1681 W., Public Works Department.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Commissioners of Land Revenue, with nine enclosures.
„ the Judicial Department.

READ—also the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), dated 3rd December 1889, No. 846:—

MR. H. W. BLISS.

Read—the following letter from H. M. WINTERBOTHAM, Esq., Collector of Malabar, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, dated Calicut, 18th November 1889, No. 3784-P.:—

I have the honor to submit the report called for in the Board's Proceedings, dated 11th October 1888, Land Revenue, No. 6077, Mis. I regret the delay, which has been caused by my being hindered by other work from visiting the Wynaad till the beginning of the current month.

2. The first question is whether the Revenue Divisional-officer's head-quarters should be moved from Manantoddy, and, if so, whither. Government answered this question in the negative in G.O., dated 11th September 1874, No. 1865. The building now used by the Deputy Collector as a residence and cutcherry was then proceeded with, and was completed in 1877-78 at a cost, in round numbers, of Rs. 22,000.

3. The only particular occasion for reopening the question at present is the pressing necessity for providing suitable accommodation for the Tahsildar and his establishment. If the Deputy Collector's head-quarters are to be moved from Manantoddy, his office might undoubtedly be converted into a sufficiently commodious taluk cutcherry at a comparatively small outlay. All that would be required would be the addition of a subsidiary jail, and the conversion of one of the rooms into a strong room for the treasury.

4. There seems to be now a tolerable unanimity of official and European opinion as to where the Deputy Collector's head-quarters should be placed if moved from Manantoddy. Mr. Ballard, when Collector, was in favor of a site about 7 miles east of Kalpetta on the road between that place and Sultan's Battery. It is a lovely park-like country, of open billowy hills of short grass, with scattered clumps of trees and bamboos. The site is central, and beautiful; but the grass hills aforesaid produce nothing of value, and support no population. The place would possess the doubtful advantage of being equally inconvenient and inaccessible to everybody, both native and European, and may be at once discarded from further consideration. Mr. MacGregor selected the summit of the Askern hill, an isolated ridge on the road between Vayitri and Kalpetta, about 4 miles from the former place and 2½ miles from the latter. Mr. Logan advocated the same place. So does the Deputy Collector, and so, I think, do Mr. Castlestuart Stuart and a majority of the European planters. The advantages are—

(1) The top of the hill is well elevated and is probably by far the healthiest site to be got near a main road, and in anything like a central position.
(2) It is easily accessible from all sides.
(3) The large bazaar of Kalpetta is distant less than an hour's walk, and will afford shelter for clerks, vakils and parties.
(4) It is close to the new Gúdalúr-Vayitri imperial road.
(5) The rainfall is probably 30 per cent. less than at Vayitri.
(6) There is said to be a perennial supply of good water near the hill-top.

5. The hill forms part of the Perindotty estate, and belongs to Messrs. Parry and Co. It is uncultivated and most of it is now covered with a dense growth of lantana. Nothing can be made out of the land by agriculture, and I should say it is not worth more than Rs. 20 per acre. To clear 20 acres of the hill, make zig-zag roads to the top, and sink a well, would cost probably Rs. 3,000; and a combined office and residence would cost about Rs. 24,000. I dare say the job would not be well finished much under Rs. 30,000. After a while some native houses and shops might grow up around the place, and the absence of native accommodation would be less felt. If a move is to take place I should give my vote for this site. The European planters are now located in the south of the taluk between Vayitri and Meppádi. Gúdalúr is spoken of as likely to become shortly a railway terminus, and the opening of the imperial road from Gúdalúr to Calicut is certain to lead to increased commercial and planting activity in the south of the taluk. The Deputy Magistrate, who is the only justice of the peace, ought no doubt to be within easy reach of the European community, over whom he alone has magisterial jurisdiction. So much may be said for the move.

6. On the other hand, coffee planting is still a most uncertain and fluctuating industry. The bush will not live if left to itself, as many thousands of abandoned acres in North and West Wynaad testify. With high farming it will flourish, but high farming depends on high prices. If the present high prices continue, there will be an influx of capital, and, as Mr. Logan once pointed * out, there may soon be again as many Europeans in North Wynaad as in South.

* *Vide* Board's Proceedings, dated 27th February 1885, No. 679.

7. I cannot myself see that there is any decided advantage to be gained by shifting the Divisional-officer's head-quarters. There are good bungalows, or rest-houses all over the taluk, and the Divisional-officer will always spend at least half the month in travelling. As a matter of fact, the Deputy Magistrate has very rarely to exercise jurisdiction as justice of the peace, perhaps not oftener than once or twice in the year. At Vayitri there is a first-class magistrate, who can dispose of all first-class cases, except where a European is the accused. Many considerable advantages

accrue from the Divisional-officer being stationed at the same place as the taluk establishment. It facilitates effective supervision on his part, diminishes correspondence, places the taluk records and all sources of information conveniently at hand, and greatly promotes the despatch of business between the Collector and Tahsildar (which must pass through the Divisional-officer). To the native public it is a great thing to have the chief revenue and magisterial officer at a place where all castes can obtain food and lodging, and where legal advice and assistance (of a sort) can always be obtained. Finally, there is the undoubted fact that the present site of the Deputy Collector's office is one of the healthiest (or perhaps, I should say, least feverish) to be found on the Wynaad plateau. On the whole, I think the balance of advantage is against moving the Divisional-officer's head-quarters from Manantoddy, and I recommend that the construction of the taluk cutcherry be proceeded with.

8. The plan and estimate provide sufficiently for present requirements. It is understood that the double yellow line across the police room indicates a partition. It is necessary that the police should have an enclosed room where arms, accoutrements, records, &c., may be secured.

9. The accommodation for records may, I think, have to be extended, but if this is found necessary, it will be easy to add the usual wing-room.

10. I think the public latrine (Rs. 1,178) is not required. An adequate scavenging establishment is never sanctioned, and wherever an attempt is made to use these latrines they prove a nuisance to the neighbourhood. The plan is radically bad, and wherever such a latrine is attached to a public office in Malabar it is of necessity kept closed. There is ample open ground in the vicinity, which dispenses with the occasion for a latrine, as a trench and tatty-screen serve the purpose better.

11. On the other hand, a ryots' shed in such a climate as that at Manantoddy is a real necessity; but I cannot think that so large an outlay as Rs. 1,826 is required. A smaller and much cheaper style of building would answer the purpose. The plans and estimates are herewith returned.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 1 TO 8.—Plans, estimates, &c.

Resolution—dated 3rd December 1889, No. 846.

In G.O., 17th September 1888, No. 5526, communicated to the Collector of Malabar in Board's Proceedings, 11th October 1888, No. 6077, Mis., the Government called for the definite opinion of Mr. Winterbotham and of the Board as to (1) the advisability of removing the head-quarters of the Wynaad Deputy Collector to Vayitri, where the District Munsif is located, or to some other station; and (2) the practicability and probable cost of converting the Deputy Collector's office into a taluk cutcherry.

2. In the letter above read, the Collector, after explaining the delay which has occurred in his reply to the reference made to him by Government, points out that the question of removing the Deputy Collector from Manantoddy to Vayitri was raised so far back as 1874 and was then answered in the negative; and states that the only particular reason for reopening that question is the pressing necessity of providing suitable accommodation for the Tahsildar and his establishment, which can be done, if the Deputy Collector is moved, at a comparatively small outlay, the only requirements being the erection of a subsidiary jail and the conversion of a room into a strong room for the treasury.

3. As to the advisability of moving the Deputy Collector's head-quarters, the Collector discusses the different other stations which have been proposed for that officer. The site on Askern hill appears to present some advantages. It is healthy (for the Wynaad); it is close to the new Gúdalúr-Vayitri road; the rainfall is probably 30 per cent. less than at Vayitri; and the water-supply is said to be good. But the fact, which the Collector states as an advantage of the site, that it is $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the Kalpetta bazaar, appears to the Board to be a conclusive disadvantage. In such a climate as that of the Wynaad during a great part of the year, it would be a positive cruelty to compel clerks and parties to cases to proceed $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles daily

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to the Deputy Collector's office and back again; nor would the adoption of this site lead to any pecuniary saving.

4. On the whole, however, the Collector is in favor of leaving the Deputy Collector where he is; and in this the Board agrees with him. It is for the advocates of change to justify it by convincing arguments. But in this case there appears to be no strong feeling on the part of any person or class of the community in favor of the change, and no arguments for it are adduced in addition to those which have already been considered and decided against; and the advantage of retaining the Deputy Collector in the same station as the Tahsildar is unquestionable.

5. The Collector was also called upon for report as to the sufficiency of the accommodation both for revenue and for police requirements, and on the latter point he was instructed to consult the Superintendent of Police.

6. It is not clear that the Collector did consult the Superintendent of Police. He remarks, however, that the police require an enclosed room for the custody of arms, accoutrements, &c., and that the double yellow line across the police room is understood to indicate a partition. Obviously, however, the double yellow line indicates a main beam of the roof and no enclosed room is provided for the police.

7. As regards the accommodation for the records, the Collector thinks that it may have to be extended, but that, if this is found necessary, it will be easy to add the usual wing-room. It is notorious, however, that nothing in the way of building is more expensive, or produces more generally unsatisfactory results, than additions to and alterations of buildings. Whatever is necessary for the custody of the records for a considerable time to come—say for the next fifty years—ought, therefore, in the Board's opinion, to be built at once. The accommodation now provided is a single room of 15′ × 14′ 3″, the wall spaces of which tiny apartment are so cut up by doors (4) and windows (2) as materially to diminish the space which will be available in it for record racks. The record room and its doors are also so placed that the room will certainly be used as a passage between the Sheristadar's and the clerks' rooms. This is most objectionable. Three of the doors should certainly be walled-up. One door is quite enough for a room of the size, and this should open into the room where the Sheristadar will sit, who is the officer specially responsible for the taluk records. The windows should be iron-barred, for security's sake.

8. As the Collector points out, a ryots' shed, or, in other words, a waiting room, is a necessary adjunct of a court-house in the Wynaad. The size of the proposed building is not extravagant—30′ × 16′. If money can be saved by the adoption of a cheaper style of building it will, of course, be well. But in any case, the ventilation openings in the walls should be much smaller, and not come down below the protection of the eaves, or the building will be unusable in the rains, especially as it is proposed that one of its sides, in which the ventilators will be placed, shall face towards the west, so that the monsoon rains will beat right through them.

9. Another serious objection to the design of the building, which has escaped the notice of the Collector, is that the Sheristadar's room is so placed, with a passage between it and the treasury, that it will be impossible for that officer to see what is going on in the treasury. The Sheristadar is responsible for all treasury payments, but he cannot sit all day in the treasury room. He has other work to attend to. He should therefore be so placed that, while attending to his other work, he can at the same time see what is going on in the treasury. The Board found it necessary only the other day (Board's Proceedings, dated 15th November 1889, No. 797) to suspend a Taluk Sheristadar because he did not properly supervise the treasury transactions. But in such a building as that proposed for the Manantoddy taluk cutcherry it will be impossible for the Sheristadar to do so.

10. A further objection to the design is the entire absence of fire-places and glass windows, both of which, if the Board is not mistaken, are needed in the Wynaad throughout the greater part of the year. Without fire-places the native clerks will not be able to keep themselves warm in the rains and cold weather; and unless glass windows are provided for the rooms, work will often be impeded, if not be rendered impossible, from want of light, when the doors and window shutters are closed to keep out the rain and damp. The fact that the south-west monsoon is severely felt in the

Wynaad seems, in fact, never to have occurred to any of the officers responsible for these designs and estimates, for the site-plan shows that the building is faced due east and west, so that every room in it, except the court room, will be exposed to almost the full force of the rains.

11. The provision of fire-places and glass windows may add to the cost of the building. But on the other hand, considerable savings may be made by the adoption of a design less entirely unsuitable to the locality. It is quite unnecessary, for instance, to provide in a cold and extremely wet climate for the large number of doors proposed. In the court room there are to be five doors, but no windows; in the clerks' room six doors and two windows; in the Sheristadar's room four doors and two windows. There should be fewer doors and more windows. This will save expense. One door should suffice for the treasury and no doors are needed for the passage between the treasury and the Sheristadar's room. This is intended to enable the police guard to go right ronnd the treasury room. But if proper iron safes are provided, this passage will not be required; and in any case no iron doors can be wanted, since it cannot be intended to close them, either to keep the police guard out or to keep it in. A large saving may also be obtained by abandoning the special single room feature of the design, if the Board may so style it. In a hot place, it may be necessary to string all the rooms of a building out in a line, so that there may be a free current of air through each one. But in the Wynaad this can hardly be essential. The proposed disposition of the rooms in a long line probably adds about 30 per cent. to the cost of the longitudinal foundations and walls, and materially increases the proportion borne by the ineffective verandah area to the effective room area.

12. The Board, therefore, ventures to recommend that a fresh design be called from the Public Works Department. The present Government Architect, with his great experience of building in the hills, would no doubt be able to furnish a plan far more suitable to the locality than that of a building designed to be erected in the plains.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) M. HAMMICK,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with 8 enclosures (plans, estimates, &c.).

Copy to the Collector of Malabar.

READ—also the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), dated 9th January 1890, No. 79, Mis.:—

MR. H. W. BLISS.

Read—the following letter from G. ROMILLY, Esq., Honorary Secretary, Wynaad Planters' Association, to the Collector of Malabar, dated Meppádi, 10th December 1889:—

At a meeting of our association held on the 4th instant, I mentioned that I had heard from you that you had finally recommended to Government that the new taluk buildings should be built at Manantoddy. I was then instructed to address you on the subject and to protest in the name of our association against the proposed site on the grounds—

(i) That Manantoddy is far removed from the centre of the district and from the new main road in the course of construction;

(ii) That there is an overwhelming preponderance of European planters in the south of the district and that a rush of capital into coffee industry such as may be expected owing to the ruling high prices would mean a further increase of the European inhabitants of the south.

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2. I believe that you admit that the Deputy Magistrate, who is the only justice of the peace, ought to be within easy reach of the European community, but, on the other hand, you consider that if there was an influx of capital into the coffee industry, there might soon be as many Europeans in the north as in the south.

3. It is against this argument that we venture to protest; what little land there is at Manantoddy, or near it, suitable for coffee is mostly Government reserve, and no company, however rich, would dream, at present prices, of trying to reclaim the land abandoned to lantana; whereas on this side of the country, there is still a great deal of fine forest untouched, and other land fit for coffee planting in the hands of private owners.

4. We would therefore respectfully request that you would inquire a little further into the subject before allowing the new buildings to be commenced.

5. The preponderance of European inhabitants in the south is already very great and may in a few years become so much greater as to necessitate the head-quarters of official business gravitating with the centre of the industrial prosperity of the district. The extra costs of erecting the buildings on this side of the district would now be but slight, but if a blunder is now made, the cost of removing them hereafter might be prohibitive.

Endorsement by H. M. WINTERBOTHAM, Esq., Collector of Malabar, dated Calicut, 14th December 1889, No. 4166-P.

True copy submitted to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, in continuation of my letter, dated 18th November 1889, No. 3784-P.

Resolution—dated 9th January 1890, No. 79, Mis.

Submitted to Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 3rd December 1889, No. 846.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) M. HAMMICK,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with letter, in original (to be returned).

Copy to the Collector of Malabar.

READ—also the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), dated 24th January 1890, No. 455, Mis.:—

MR. H. W. BLISS.

Read—the following letter from G. ROMILLY, Esq., Honorary Secretary, Wynaad Planters' Association, to the Collector of Malabar, dated Meppádi, 10th January 1890:—

In addressing you on the 10th December last, I see that I inadvertently spoke of the new taluk buildings, whereas I was instructed to address you on the subject of the new Deputy Collector's office.

2. Since writing to you I have received from your office a copy of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 3rd December 1889, No. 846.

3. In paragraph 4 of these Proceedings, the Board remark that "in this case there appears to be no strong feeling on the part of any person or class of the community in favor of the change, and no arguments for it are adduced in addition to those which have already been considered and decided against."

4. I sincerely trust that you have already represented to the Board that there is a very decided opinion amongst the European inhabitants of this district that the Deputy Magistrate should have his head-quarters in our midst, and not in an outlying station like Manantoddy.

5. I can only reiterate the arguments already adduced, and trust you will be good enough to forward them to the Board of Revenue before the new taluk buildings are sanctioned.

Endorsement by H. M. WINTERBOTHAM, Esq., Collector of Malabar, dated Calicut, 14th January 1890, No. 129-P.

Submitted to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, in continuation of my endorsement, No. 4166-P., dated 14th December 1889, disposed of in Board's Proceedings, dated 9th January 1890, No. 79, Mis.

Resolution—dated 24th January 1890, No. 455, Mis.

Submitted to Government in continuation of the Board's Proceedings quoted by the Collector.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) M. HAMMICK,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, with letter, in original (to be returned).

Copy to the Collector of Malabar.

ORDER—dated 4th February 1890, No. 106, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

On a careful consideration of the above papers, His Excellency the Governor in Council concurs with the Board in considering that it is best on the whole to retain Manantoddy as the head-quarters of the Deputy Collector of Wynaad and that accordingly a new office should be built for the Tahsildar at that station.

2. The Government also agrees with the Board in considering that the design of the proposed building is quite unsuited to the locality and that a revised design suitable to the climate of Wynaad should be prepared. The necessary orders for this purpose will be issued in the Public Works Department.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Public Works Department, with enclosures.
„ the Commissioners of Land Revenue.
„ the Judicial Department.

Exd. W. J. Lewis.

60 Copies.

104

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
RAILWAY BRANCH.

THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the

P.C. Cur 1933.

Govt. of {1890} Madras.

REVENUE.

No. 208 W of 25-1-86
" 2491 W - 22-10-85
" 2225 W - 23-9-85
" 847 W - 7-4-85
" 1602 W - 15-6-87

Issued

Recd 26-2-90 Encl. 8

(enclosed 18)

G.O., 4th February 1890, No. 106.

FEBRUARY.

10 665 R of 3 Encl

New Taluk Cutcherry, Manantoddy.

Concurrence expressed in the Board's opinion that it is best to retain Manantoddy as headquarters of the Deputy Collector of Wynaad and that a new office should be built there for the Tahsildar; the design of the proposed building considered unsuited to the locality; the necessary orders for its revision to issue from the Public Works Department.

Rem. 27-2-90 R 1-3-90

C.N.W. 666/27

Para 10 of letter No 3754 P 7 15th Nov 89 printed with G.O. Revenue 106 of 4th Feb 90 requires consideration. Apparently the plan referred to is the last sanctioned design for a public latrine.

This on his return from Wynaad

Dr Hon'ble Mr Ilbert

He wished to see the plan when he was asked to sign some days ago.

WWW 6.3.90

Please see attached note by J.

The Collector says that the plan of latrine is satisfactorily laid, but perhaps he means that it is not for the locality.

There is nothing to prevent the latrine being omitted at any place where it is considered unnecessary.

LO

Cu 6-3-90

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
RAILWAY BRANCH.

P.W.D. &c 1933.

P.W.D. &c 1933

668/22

B.N.R.

Herewith the latest design for a Latrine for Catchwaters to which appertaining the Contractors remarks appear, but to condemn a design on the ground it might encroach on "adequate Scavenging Establishment" is a sweeping Condemnation which cannot affect the merits of design.

The arrangements of this design as question appears to have been carefully considered and all the requirements of a Latrine fully provided for.

The drains are perfect, the ventilation is good, and the arrangement for conveying the pans cannot be better.

The plans showed only one seat and one Scavenger should be able to keep the Latrine clean.

If a Scavenger cannot be provided for it could undoubtedly be better to have no Latrine at all.

The Latrine may be better ventilated by the addition of a ridge Ventilator.

Comp
6.3.30

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
RAILWAY BRANCH.

P.C. Encl 1933.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,

RAILWAY BRANCH.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

668/27

UNDER date the

READ the following

Pros. of Govt. Rev. Dept. No. 106 of 14.2.90.

Communicated to the Consulting Architect, who will in communication with the Collector of Malabar and the Supdg. Engineer IV Circle, submit a revised design and estimate for a second class taluk office at Manantoddy.

Ltr 27.2.90

Recd 27.2.90

Ch

Ltr 28/2/90

D 3/3/90

To the C.A.D. Govt. ✓
with 8 encls
" S.S. IV Circle
" Rev. Dept.
2 Copies to be retd

Rev. 27-2-90 R1-3