

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Political **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 628	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated 12 8 1918	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Political Consultation, 18th August 1857.

No 3. Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, in the Revenue Department, dated 28th July 1857, No. 758.

Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

Submitting with the Board's views thereon, correspondence from the Collector of Madura relative to the Boundary line between his District and the Travancore Territory, and recommending that the Resident be informed that the order of Government, of 2nd November 1851, fixing the crest of the Ghauts as the Boundary line must be considered to be decisive. } (Here enter 4th March 1857, No. 674.)

Para. 1. With these Proceedings, the Board of Revenue forward a letter from the Acting Collector of Madura, giving cover to a correspondence between himself and the Resident of Travancore, on the question of the proper boundary line between the Madura District and the Territory of His Highness the Rajah of Travancore.

2. The question originated in a dispute between the Poligar of Tewaram in Madura, and some Mettoo Peons employed by the Travancore Circar to check smuggling in Cardamoms, the former having interfered with the latter, on the ground that the Mettoos or place where the Peons were stationed belonged to the limits of Madura. Two Gentlemen were nominated, one on behalf of the British, and the other on that of the Travancore Government, to ascertain within whose limits the Mettoo, and a Cardamom Farm planted by the Tewaram Poligar, were situated. The result was, that the position of both Mettoo and Cardamom Garden was admitted to be on the Eastern slope of the Ghauts.

3. A similar dispute relating to the boundary of the two Territories occurred in 1807, on the occasion of some interference exercised by the people of Travancore with the servants of the renters of the Cardamom Gardens in the Madura District while they were engaged in gathering their crops, on the ground that the Gardens belong to the Travancore Circar. The subject engaged the attention of the Local Officers during a long course of years, and after much discussion and correspondence, it was finally referred to the decision of Mr. Higginson, the 3rd Judge of the Southern Provincial Court. Mr. Higginson's report, with the whole correspondence bearing on the question at issue, was duly brought before Government, and after giving the subject their careful and deliberate consideration, they resolved, in E. M. C., 2nd November 1821, that the eastern ridge of the Ghauts should form the boundary between the two States.

4. It appears from the correspondence now submitted by the Board, that Mr. Kohlhoff who appeared on behalf of the Travancore Circar, discovered at the foot of the Hills, some stones, supposed to be the boundary stones of the Tewaram and Bodinaickanoor Polliems, and one bearing the emblems of the Poonjet Rajah; and that, on this ground, he claimed that the intermediate space between them and the summit, should be considered neutral ground between the two countries.

5. In his letter to the address of the Collector, dated 17th October 1855, the Resident referred to the Government printed map, as shewing that the boundary "line runs exactly along the crest of the Ghauts;" but, in his latter letter of the 22nd April 1856, he adopts the view taken of the subject by Mr. Kohlhoff. He says "I think it will be well to consider the Eastern Slope "of the table land, and as far as the acknowledged boundaries of the several Zemindaries, as "neutral ground."

6. Mr. Parker, the late Collector, brought this apparent inconsistency to the notice of the Resident, and although General Cullen was not induced to withdraw the claims he had urged on behalf of the Travancore Government, yet there is evidence of inability to maintain it; and his request, that if this claim be disallowed, the Circar should still be allowed the privilege of maintaining Mettoo Stations on the slopes to the exclusion of the other parties, would seem to indicate that he was willing to ask that as an indulgence which he had hitherto claimed as a right.

7. The correspondence that subsequently took place with the Resident was for a reconsideration of the subject, with reference to the line of boundary fixed by Government in Extract Minutes Consultation, 2nd November 1821, and led to no satisfactory result, as the Resident did

Fort Saint George, Political Consultation, 18th August 1857.

not concur in the interpretation placed on those orders by the Collector, and argues that they were passed before the great Trigonometrical Survey of the boundaries, by Ward and Connor, was completed, a Survey which, he states, has been appealed to as an authority on all occasions of boundary disputes in the neighbouring Districts, and allowed by Government.

8. The Board of Revenue, in considering the question, properly remark that the slopes of the Hills cannot be regarded as neutral ground; they must be taken as part of the one Territory or the other: but, to determine to which of the two the slopes belong, they notice the two points on which the matter hinges, *viz.*, the intent of the order of Government of the 2nd November 1821; and, secondly, the boundary line laid down in Ward and Connor's Survey.

9. As regards the first point, the Board give a detailed account of the events which led to the order of the 2nd November 1821, already briefly adverted to in a former part of these proceedings. They shew that in the earlier correspondence on the subject of the dispute between the Travancore people and the Cardamom renters, the Resident at that time only claimed for the Travancore Circar, "that the high ridge of Hills from which the Rivers flow in an easterly and "westerly direction should be the limits of the rights of each party;" that the boundary line was then represented to have never previously been clearly defined; and that the Government finally declared the eastern ridge to be the boundary, and directed an intimation to be conveyed to the Rani of Travancore that all doubts which had remained on the question had been made to yield to the desire of Government to shew their consideration for an ancient Ally. The Board conclude from this that there was some foundation for a claim on the part of Government to a part of the table land west of the ridge, and that the utmost the Travancore Circar could pretend a right to, was as far as the eastern ridge, and that this alone, exclusive of the eastern slope, was intended by Government in their order of the 2nd November 1821, to be the future boundary.

10. On the second point, the Board observe that Arrowsmith's Map, compiled, they believe, from the Trigonometrical Survey, lays down the boundary line along the submit of the Ghauts. They are unable to reconcile all the arguments of the Resident, and they particularly point to inconsistencies disclosed by a comparison of his letter of the 17th October 1855, with Zemindaries being found below the ridge, on which the claim to the slopes has been advanced, the Board attach no importance to the fact, as they had already shewn that Government had a claim to land considerably west of the ridge, and it was not difficult to suppose that their Territory extended beyond the limits of those Zemindaries, although by the concession of 1821, to the Travancore Government, there may be no cultivation to the west of them.

11. After the full exposition of the subject given by the Board of Revenue in the above Proceedings, which the preceding paragraphs abridge, there can be no difficulty in arriving at a conclusion in favor of the Government; and under this view, the argument adopted by the Resident cannot be admitted, and the claim for neutral ground set up on behalf of the Travancore Circar, cannot be conceded. The Government had hoped that the liberal spirit in which the former dispute was settled in 1821, would have prevented a renewal of the subject. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council now resolves, in conformity with the recommendation of the Board of Revenue, to inform the Resident of Travancore, through the Political Department, that the order of Government of the 2nd November 1821 fixing the crest of the Ghauts as the boundary line between the District of Madura and Travancore must be considered as decisive.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) H. FORBES,

Acting Secretary to Government.

No. 4.

ORDER THEREON, No. 628; dated 12th August 1857.

Ordered that a Copy of the foregoing Extract be furnished to the Resident of Travancore for his information, and for communication to the Travancore Government.

Exd. J. A. Wilson.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 758.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation under date the 28th July 1857.

Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

Submitting with the Board's views thereon, correspondence from the Collector of Madura relative to the boundary line between his District and the Travancore territory, and recommending that the Resident be informed that the order of Government of 2d November 1851 fixing the crest of the Ghauts as the boundary line must be considered to be decisive.

(Here enter 4th March 1857, No. 674.)

Para. 1. With these Proceedings, the Board of Revenue forward a letter from the Acting Collector of Madura, giving cover to a correspondence between himself and the Resident of Travancore, on the question of the proper boundary line between the Madura District and the territory of H. H. the Rajah of Travancore.

2. The question originated in a dispute between the Poligar of Tewaram in Madura, and some Mettoo peons employed by the Travancore Circar to check smuggling in Cardamoms, the former having interfered with the latter, on the ground that the Mettoos or place where the peons were stationed belonged to the limits of Madura. Two Gentlemen were nominated, one on behalf of the British, and the other on that of the Travancore Government, to ascertain within whose limits the Mettoo, and a Cardamom farm planted by the Tewaram Poligar, were situated. The result was, that the position of both Mettoo and Cardamom garden was admitted to be on the Eastern slope of the Ghauts.

3. A similar dispute relating to the boundary of the two territories occurred in 1807, on the occasion of some interference exercised by the people of Travancore with the servants of the renters of the Cardamom gardens in the Madura District while they were engaged in gathering their crops, on the ground that the gardens belonged to the Travancore Circar. The subject engaged the attention of the local officers during a long course of years, and after much discussion and correspondence, it was finally referred to the decision of Mr. Higginson the 3d Judge of the Southern Provincial Court. Mr. Higginson's report, with the whole correspondence bearing on the question at issue, was duly brought before Government, and after giving the subject their careful and deliberate consideration, they resolved, in E. M. C. 2d November 1821, that the eastern ridge of the Ghauts should form the boundary between the two States.

4. It appears from the correspondence now submitted by the Board, that Mr. Kohlhoff, who appeared on behalf of the Travancore Circar, discovered at the foot of the Hills, some stones, supposed to be the boundary stones of the Tewaram and Bodinaickanoor polliems, and one bearing the emblems of the Poonjat Rajah; and that on this ground, he claimed that the intermediate space between them and the summit, should be considered neutral ground between the two countries.

5. In his letter to the address of the Collector, dated 17th October 1855, the Resident referred to the Government printed map, as shewing that the boundary "line runs exactly along the crest of the Ghauts;" but in his later letter of the 22d April 1856, he adopts the view taken of the subject by Mr. Kohlhoff. He says "I think it will be well to consider the Eastern slope "of the table land, and as far as the acknowledged boundaries of the several Zemindaries, as "neutral ground."

6. Mr. Parker, the late Collector, brought this apparent inconsistency to the notice of the Resident, and although General Cullen was not induced to withdraw the claims he had urged on behalf of the Travancore Government, yet there is evidence of inability to maintain it; and his request, that if this claim be disallowed, the Circar should still be allowed the privilege of maintaining Mettoo stations on the slopes to the exclusion of other parties, would seem to indicate that he was willing to ask that as an indulgence which he had hitherto claimed as a right.

7. The correspondence that subsequently took place with the Resident was for a reconsideration of the subject with reference to the line of boundary fixed by Government in Extract Minutes Consultation 2d November 1821, and led to no satisfactory result, as the Resident did not concur in the interpretation placed on those orders by the Collector, and argues that they were passed before the great Trigonometrical Survey of the boundaries, by Ward and Connor, was completed, a survey which, he states, has been appealed to as an authority on all occasions of boundary disputes in the neighbouring Districts, and allowed by Government.

8. The Board of Revenue in considering the question, properly remark that the slopes of the hills cannot be regarded as neutral ground; they must be taken as part of the one territory or the other: but, to determine to which of the two the slopes belong, they notice the two points on which the matter hinges, viz. the intent of the order of Government of the 2d November 1821; and secondly, the boundary line laid down in Ward and Connor's survey.

9. As regards the first point, the Board give a detailed account of the events which led to the order of the 2d November 1821, already briefly adverted to in a former part of these proceedings. They shew that in the earlier correspondence on the subject of the dispute between the Travancore people and the Cardamon renters, the Resident at that time, only claimed for the Travancore Circar, "that the high ridge of hills from which the rivers flow in an easterly and "westerly direction should be the limits of the rights of each party;" that the boundary line was then represented to have never previously been clearly defined; and that the Government finally declared the Eastern ridge to be the boundary, and directed an intimation to be conveyed to the Rani of Travancore that all doubts which had remained on the question had been made to yield to the desire of Government to shew their consideration for an ancient Ally. The Board conclude from this, that there was some foundation for a claim on the part of Government to a part of the table land west of the ridge, and that the utmost the Travancore Circar could pretend a right to, was as far as the eastern ridge, and that this alone, exclusive of the eastern slope, was intended by Government in their order of the 2d November 1821, to be the future boundary.

10. On the second point, the Board observe that Arrowsmith's Map, compiled, they believe, from the Trigonometrical survey, lays down the boundary line along the summit of the ghauts. They are unable to reconcile all the arguments of the Resident, and they particularly point to inconsistencies disclosed by a comparison of his letter of the 17th October 1855, with that of the 13th August 1856. As regards the boundary stones of the Tewaram and Bodinaiknoor Zemindaries being found below the ridge, on which the claim to the slopes has been advanced, the Board attach no importance to the fact, as they had already shewn that Government had a claim to land considerably west of the ridge, and it was not difficult to suppose that their territory extended beyond the limits of those Zemindaries, although by the concession of 1821, to the Travancore Government, there may be no cultivation to the west of them.

11. After the full exposition of the subject given by the Board of Revenue in the above Proceedings, which the preceding paragraphs abridge, there can be no difficulty in arriving at a conclusion in favor of the Government; and under this view, the argument adopted by the Resident cannot be admitted, and the claim for neutral ground set up on behalf of the Travancore Circar, cannot be conceded. The Government had hoped that the liberal spirit in which the former dispute was settled in 1821, would have prevented a renewal of the subject. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council now resolves in conformity with the recommendation of the Board of Revenue to inform the Resident of Travancore, through the Political Department, that the order of Government of the 2d November 1821 fixing the crest of the Ghauts as the boundary line between the District of Madura and Travancore must be considered as decisive.

(A true Extract.)



Acting Secretary to Government.



Edward Smith, 1837

Wm. L. & Co. 1837
Litho. 1837. 10/10/37

Extract from the
Journal of the Revenue
Commission - 1837

1837
23/10/37

1837

2 pages copied

Extracting to the Rev.
Commissioners that
the order of 1837 No. 1
1837 fixing the cost of the
Giant to the boundary
line between the District
of Madras & Carnatic
must be considered as
revoked. —

Wm. L. & Co.

1837

Extract from the
Journal of the President of the
Commission for the
information and for
communication to the
Commissioners

The 1837 No. 1
1837 No. 1

1837

1837 No. 1
1837 No. 1