M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2078 Press ~~Mis.~~

128-130

Dated 8 — 11 — 1869.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 128. Read the following papers from A. C. BARNES, Esq., Secretary to the Planter's Association, to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government. Madras, dated Vitri Wainád, 15th October 1860 :—

SIR,

I am directed by the Planter's Association again to forward to you copy of Resolutions passed by a General Meeting held on the 14th of August and posted to your address for submission to the Government nearly two months back.

RESOLUTION. I. The attention of the Association having been drawn to the publication of certain Government papers on the subject of Coffee land taxation in Wainád, and amongst which we find Memorandum by J. Bourdillon, Esq., Secretary to Government, of date 29th February 1860, containing the most injurious reflections and aspersions on the Planters of Wainád, who are represented as being likely to adopt the most improper means of thwarting and evading a legal impost, the Association feel called upon in justice to themselves and to the Planters generally of Wainád to record their unqualified surprise and indignation at the wanton insult thus offered. They not simply deny that the Planters of Wainád are capable of acting as has been represented but that Mr. Bourdillon who is personally an entire stranger to the District and to nearly all the residents within it, had any foundation whatever for his slanderous insinuations, and they feel constrained further to express their mingled pain and astonishment that the Government should have suffered such reflections upon a body of honorable men to be addressed to it unrebuked and have even given currency to them by their communication to the public Newspapers

II. That the foregoing resolution be forwarded to the Governmment.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) A. C. BARNES,
Secretary, Planter's Association.

No. 129. MEMORANDUM by J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., dated 31st October 1860.

1. As offence has been given by the publication of my Memorandum of February 29th 1860 on the subject of the taxation of Coffee land in Wainád, it seems proper that I should record a brief explanation on the subject.

2. The Memorandum in question was not written for publication, and it was published by inadvertance only. It was a confidential paper ; and the language was less carefully weighed than it would have been if the paper had been of a more formal character, and went beyond my meaning. I spoke of the Planters as they had been described to me by persons who had had opportunity of judging of them, and who certainly were not unkindly disposed towards them ; but those persons did not mean, and I did not understand them to mean, that the description applied generally, and the language in the Memorandum on that point is much broader than I should have employed if writing more deliberately.

3. Annoyance is felt also that I should have anticipated a want of cordial co-operation with the servants of Government, in many cases, on the part of the Planters, in ascertaining the amount of tax payable. I cannot see, however, that this apprehension, which was quite general and without any reference to individuals, was slanderous to the Planters. It is generally admitted that a lax morality does prevail, even among our own countrymen, in the matter of paying taxes. The Customs authorities in England have large experience of such a state of mind on the part of travellers arriving from abroad ; it is notorious that the Income tax in England is largely evaded by persons of respectable station ; and the expectation is general that similar evasion will be met with among English residents in India. I think therefore that I was warranted in using the expectation of similar conduct in Wainád, as an argument against a particular form of taxation.

4. The gentlemen of the Planters' Association repudiate the supposition. I do not doubt their sincerity ; and it will give me great pleasure to learn that my anticipation was equally unfounded as respects the whole body of the Planters.

5. I will only add that I very much regret that I should have given any cause of offence. The language of the Memorandum as already said was unguarded and too broad; but it was used *bonâ fide* and in the course of what I considered my duty. It was certainly prompted by no ill feeling towards the Planters. I have always looked on the settlement of Englishmen in that position as one of the most promising means for the civilization and improvement of this country. I have rejoiced in their success, and have done from time to time what has been in my power to promote it; and the object of the very paper now in question was to advocate that form of land tax for Wainád, which I believed and still believe to be the most for the Planters' interests.

No. 130. ORDER THEREON, 8th November 1860, No. 2,078.

1. The foregoing Memorandum by Mr. Bourdillon will be communicated to the Planter's Association of Wainad, in reply to their Secretary's letter above recorded.

2. The Association will be informed, at the same time, that it was not thought necessary to make any special reply to their former letter of the 18th August, because the Government had already declared, in an order which had been made public, (July 6th 1860, No. 1,114) that the publication of the original Memorandum was an act of inadvertence.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Revenue Department

A. P. 2078.

Proceedings of the Madras Government.
Under date the 8th November 1860

Read the following papers

From the Secretary to the Planter's association

Forwarding again copy of Resolutions passed by a general meeting held on the 18th August last (Here enter 16th October 1860.)

Memo by the Secretary to Government Revenue Department (Here enter 31st October 1860)

The foregoing memo by Mr. Bourdillon will be communicated to the Planters association of Wynaud, in reply to their secretary's letter above recorded.

2 The association will be informed, at the same time, that it was not thought necessary to make any special reply to their former letter of the 18th August, because the Government had already declared, in an order which had been made public, (July 6/60, No. 1114) that the publication of the original memo was an act of inadvertence.

1 Copy
To the Secretary to the
Planters Association

Regarding the Resolution of the Planters Association

300 - 301
1859-60
61-62
6-7-60
73-78
16-5-60

Revenue 1860 Deptt.
Pro: of Govt for Nov.
No 2078.
Pro: of the Madras Govt.
Dy 8th Nov: 160.

Memo: by J. D. Bourdillon Esqr. with reference to the offence given by the publication of his Memo: on the subject of the taxation of Coffee land in Wainad Communicated to the Planters association of Wainad -

No 128 at 130.