M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-23

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 396 Press ~~Mis.~~

59-62

Dated 16 — 3 — 1860.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, for the month of March 1860.

No. 59. Read the following :—

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st November 1859, No. 4757.

E. M. C. 11th in Con. 12th March 1859, No. 308.
From Chief Engineer 16th, in Con. 16th April 1859, No. 1717, with enclosures, viz.
From District Engr., Malabar, 26th March 1859.
Do. do. Coimbatore, 31st do.
From Collector of Malabar, 25th April, in Con. 2nd May 1859, No. 1939.
From Collector of Coimbatore 2nd, in Con. 8th June 1859, No. 2651.
From Collector of Malabar 6th, in Con. 14th July 1859, No. 3462.
From Chief Commissioner, Mufassal Police, dated 31st August, in Con. 2d Sept. 1859, No. 4366.

Read papers again as per margin.

In Extract Minutes Consultation, under date the 11th March 1859, No. 303, paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of a Minute of the Right Honorable the Governor, on the subject of including the whole Plateau of the Nílgiris in the District of Coimbatore were referred to the Board and the Chie, Engineer for report in communication with the local authorities.

In Con. 12th March 1859.

2. The Chief Engineer forwarded to the Board two letters, one from the Distric Engineer, Mr. Bean of Malabar, and one from the District Engineer, Mr. Fraser of Coimbatore, on the subject.

No. 1717, from Chief Engr. 16th, in Con. 16th April 1859.

Sesparah ghat.
Goodaloor do.
Careoor do.

3. Mr. Bean observes that there are three ghats to the Nílgiris, which are in part or wholly in Malabar District, and which would be more conveniently placed, as at present they are by a private arrangement, under the executive charge of the Officer on the Nílgiris.

4. Mr. Fraser the District Engineer of Coimbatore, is of the same opinion.

5. With regard, therefore, to the convenience of the Department of Public Works, the change proposed would be advantageous, though, probably, the executive charge of the ghats might easily be arranged without any transfer of territory.

No. 2651, from Coimbatore 2nd, in Con. 8th June 1859.
No. 1939, from Malabar, 25th April, in Con. 2nd May 1859.

6. The Collectors of Coimbatore and Malabar are both of opinion, that the Plateau of the Kundás in Malabar, should be transferred to the Nílgiris and included in the Collectorate of Coimbatore.

From Chief Commissioner of Mufassal Police, 31st August, in Con. 2nd September 1859, No. 4366.

7. Mr. W. Robinson, the Chief Commissioner of Mufassal Police, whose opinion was also sought, is of the same opinion.

8. The Board, therefore, beg to recommend that the whole Plateau of the Nílgiris, now partly in Coimbatore and partly in the Malabar District, be transferred entirely to Coimbatore.

9. But the question has taken a wider range. Mr. Fraser, the District Engineer of Coimbatore, recommends that, if any change of boundary be made, it should not be confined to the Nílgiris, but that the line of the watershed between Coimbatore and Malabar be made the boundary. This is commonly called the Attapadi valley from the village of that name situated in it, but should, Mr. Grant thinks, be properly called the Bawáni valley.

See P. S. to letter from Collector of Malabar 6th. in Con. 14th July 1859, No. 3462.

10. Mr. Fraser gives several reasons for pending the transfer of this portion of Malabar also to Coimbatore. The piece proposed by him to be transferred may be seen in the Trigonometrical Survey Atlas, No. 61, and is shown in a sketch forwarded in Mr. Grant's

In Con. 14th July 1859, No. 3462.

letter of 6th July. Mr. Fraser's reasons are ;—

1st. That the boundary is the natural boundary between the two Districts. Paragraphs 12 and 13.

2d. That there are a great many Erralar and Kottar villages inhabited by colonists from different parts of Coimbatore; transferring them to Coimbatore would be to them a great boon, as their country is more accessible from Coimbatore than from Malabar; their relations, social or otherwise, are with Coimbatore, and not with Malabar, and their language Tamil and not Malayalam.—Paragraph 15.

3rd. That this tract is far more accessible to the town of Coimbatore, only 20 miles distant, having good roads, than to Malabar, from whence it is rarely visited except by peons, and there is no road but by a rugged mountain pass.—Paragraphs 16 and 17.

4th. That none of the peculiar tenures which prevail in Malabar are known in that country.—Paragraph 18.

5th. That between its people and the Mapillays there has been perpetual feud.—Paragraph 18.

6th. That the people who are principally Erralars, are an active, intelligent, and faithful race, and should not be neglected as they now are, as they will be found most useful.—Paragraphs 19, 20, 21, and 22.

7th. That the transfer would be a great convenience to the Department of Public Works as giving the Coimbatore authorities control over the water of the Bawáni and its tributaries, especially in the locality of a basin, which it is in contemplation to form by the erection of a bund across the Bawáni river.—Paragraphs 24 and 25.

11. Mr. Grant, the Collector of Malabar, while acquiescing in the proposition to transfer the *Plateau* of the Kundás, demurs to the addition of about 200 square miles of Malabar District as proposed by Mr. Fraser, to Coimbatore, and "trusts that such a proposition will not be hastily adopted." His present knowledge of the country, its people and their rights is so limited, that he is not prepared to advocate the step. He remarks that the rights and interests of the landowners most intimately concerned, many of whom have property within the proposed boundary, should receive some consideration. It would cause discontent in the mind of the Malabar proprietors to be told, without previous communication with them, that certain of their land had been transferred to the neighbouring District, and that they must in future have recourse to its Courts and Magisterial offices for the settlement of all civil and criminal cases, where their language and customs are unknown.

From Collector of Malabar 6th in Con. 14th July 1859, No. 3462, paragraph 5.

12. The boundary proposed by Mr. Grant is shown in his sketch; it commences at Sundapatti, a village on the left bank of the stream which flows from the Attapadi valley into the Bawáni river, and runs westward to the Enginda Peak and thence northward to the Galligul hill, from which the line is the same as proposed by Mr. Fraser, District Engineer of Coimbatore.

13. Mr. Fraser's proposed boundary embraces the country south of Mr. Grant's line. Both are shown on the sketch map. It commences at the head of the Nayel valley, runs by the watershed by Poolymallay, Purroomulla Peak, to Makurty Peak, to Nílgiri Peak, thence in a north-east direction to Nuddivathum (upon the projection of the Plateau above Cotars' huts), round that projection, crosses the watershed and thence straight down to the present boundary at a point where a ridge* is shown to cross the river, which ridge is the edge of the Plateau there. He proposes that the river Moyár be made the boundary all the way down, and that the little piece of ground in the angle between the two rivers, and which now belongs to Coimbatore, be given to Wynád, because the country is properly part of Wynád, and the character of the country and of the people are quite distinct from those on the Coimbatore side.—Paragraphs 13 and 14 of Mr. Fraser's letter.

* *Note.— Better seen in map No.* 61.

14. It does not appear clear whether Mr. Thomas, the Collector of Coimbatore, is cognizant of the whole of Mr. Fraser's proposition. But Mr. Robinson, Chief Commissioner of Mufassal Police, observes, that the necessity of the transfer of the Attapadi valley to Coimbatore may not be so urgent as the transfer of the Kunda hills, yet that "it is obviously desirable; it is the head

of the Bawáni valley and geographically belongs to Coimbatore and is far more accessible from that District than from Malabar." He notices, as another reason for desiring the change, that

Mr. Robinson's letter, 31st August, in Con. 2nd September 1859, No. 4366, paragraphs 4, 5.

"the Malabar Janmies are always advancing their ill-defined claims over that land likewise."

15. The Board have no hesitation in recommending the transfer of the Kunda hill Plateau as shown in Mr. Grant's sketch to Coimbatore; but until Mr. Grant has made further enquiries, they would defer passing decision on Mr. Fraser's proposition of transferring the Attapadi valley also to that District.

16. These Proceedings will be now sent to the Collectors of Malabar and Coimbatore, and these gentlemen are directed, after communication with each other, to report again at as early a date as possible, whether they consider it desirable or not to make the transfer of the Attapadi valley to Coimbatore, and the nook of land in the angle between the Moyár and the other river to Wynád in the Malabar District.

20. As the subject is closely connected with the re-arrangement of táluq boundaries, now under the immediate direction of Mr. Pelly, Member of the Board, these gentlemen will bring the matter before Mr. Pelly also, when reporting on the changes proposed in the táluqs of their respective villages.

21. These Proceedings will also be forwarded to Government, that orders may be passed on the transfer of the Kundâs as recommended by the Board to the Coimbatore District.

22. A copy will also be sent to the Chief Engineer, with reference to his letter of 16th April 1859, and to Mr. Pelly.

In Con. 16th April 1859, No. 1717.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Acting Secretary.*

No. 60. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 31st January 1860, No. 527.

Read the following letter from P. GRANT, Esq., Collector of Malabar; to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Fort Saint George, dated Calicut, 9th January 1860, No. 10:—

In Proceedings Board of Revenue, No. 4757, dated November 21st, 1859, a further reference is made in paragraph 16 to the question of transferring to the Coimbatore District the portion of country called the Attapadi valley, and at present forming part of this Collectorate.

2. The propriety of annexing to the Wynád táluq the nook of land between the Moyár and the other river, is also mooted.

3. With regard to this last question the Collector of Coimbatore and myself are agreed, that the transfer proposed, may, with advantage, be carried out.

4. As to the transfer of the Attapadi or Bawáni valley, Mr. Thomas remarks;—

Paragraph 2. "On the second point, the Attapadi valley, I think, for the reasons urged by "the District Engineer, that the transfer to Coimbatore would perhaps be advisable, if you do "not, on further enquiry, find any valid objection thereto. The valley is not of much value to "either District, except in an Engineering point of view, as a water supply, and which chiefly "concerns and benefits Coimbatore."

5. You will observe that Mr. Thomas urges no reasons, for the transfer founded on his own personal knowledge of the matter; and, as he believes, that the valley is of little value to either District, he is of course ignorant of the large timber felling which is going on at this present moment in the valley.

6. Mr. McGregor, the Special Assistant Collector, entered fully into the question of the transfer of the valley, and personally visited it; he went to many of the localities, conversed

with the inhabitants, and elicited from them, in personal communication, their opinions as to the proposed transfer. The following is his own account of the matter ;—

Paragraph 1. "I have the honor to forward a letter from the Manargat Náyar who is the "proprietor of a very large portion of the country proposed to be transferred from this to Coim- "batore District.

* 1. *Eralpad.*
2. *Pudia Kovilagom.*
3. *Padari Náyar.*
4. *Mangada Rájá.*

2. "There are four other Rájás* who have extensive possessions, "and their wishes on the matter not yet having reached me, I have "directed the Tahsíldár to make his report of them direct to you, to "obviate delay.

3. "The country is occupied by a small population of Bargars, Malars and Kurumbars "who raise crops of dry grain.

4. "The importance of the country consists in the valuable timber, of which it contains "an almost inexhaustible supply.

5. "The land on which the forests are finest, slopes so gradually that timber is brought "from places at a considerable distance to the east and north-east of Shairmangadi and floated "down to Ponáni by the Manargat river.

6. "The extent to which timber is thus brought to the western coast marked from this "source is not, I believe, generally known.

7. "In the course of an hour's walk, I counted not less than 150 first-class trees of rose- "wood (viti) alone, many of which were worth from 100 to 200 Rupees.

8. "These were lying on the ground in course of removal, and represent but a fraction of "the numbers annually cut ; and besides rosewood there is some of the finest teak particularly "in the direction of Mariáti, and I believe the value of the timber yearly cut would be under- "estimated at a lac of Rupees.

9. "Here there are extensive interests involved and to secure them it appears to me "essential that the jurisdiction of the Courts and Magistracy of Malabar should be retained over "this locality.

10. "The individuals employed in the working of these forests are Nayars, Teers and "Mápillas, whose homes are in central Malabar, and who merely go into these hills during cer- "tain times of year.

11. "To them, Coimbatore is a foreign country in which not only their peculiar customs, "but even their language is unknown, and they are further separated from the plains on the "eastern side, by a belt of country unhealthy for many months.

12. "The fact too of the direction of the timber carriage being westerly must increase the "difficulty of effectually watching it from Coimbatore and preventing depredation.

13. "The question of transferring this portion of the District to Coimbatore having origi- "nated in consequence of projected irrigation works, it may be as well to remark that there are "few inhabitants and no village establishments, and the works being for the advantage of dis- "tant proprietors would have to be erected, maintained and regulated by labor brought from a "distance and organized for the purpose.

14. "Conditions, therefore, which elsewhere necessitate an intimate co-operation between "the Public Works and Revenue Authorities are here wanting."

Again he writes ;—

"I have the honor to report further on the subject of my letter of the 22nd instant, having "since had an opportunity of conversing with the inhabitants of several of the principal Atta- "padi villages.

2. "As far as I have been able to ascertain all object strongly to the proposed transfer, "on the ground that their dealings are with the Manargat people, that they can reach that place "easily in a morning's walk.

3. "The casts inhabiting these villages are Erralars, Kurumbars, Malasers, and Bargars, "all of whom speak Tamil.

"The only representives of Coimbatore settlers are some 5 or 6 families of Kándars.

"These villages have no establishments attached to them, the offices of head of the village "in all being performed by the Adikári of Manargat.

"The Bargars are by far the most intiligent and civilized of the tribes, and it is a singular "fact they should so soon have lost the Canarese dialect, as it is only two are three generations "back that they moved from the Kundás down into valley.

"From their appearance and language, I should certainly have put them down as settlers "from the plains of Coimbatore, however, that they are Canarese Bargars there can be doubt, "and they continue to intermarry with the Bargars of the Kundás.

4. "At Shirakadon, their principal village, I observed immense herds of cattle, which, they "informed me, were placed with them for grazing by the inhabitants of Manargat for several "months in the year.

5. "It is also from that place that the Bráhmans come to perform their ceremonies, and they "(the villagers,) expressed in the strongest terms their unwillingness to be separated from the "country to which they are connected by so many ties.

6. "The furthest north of the Attapadi villages is Kumakurri, a thriving hill Bargar vil- "lage, similar to those on the Kundás.

"It is on the road from the Bawáni valley to the Kundás, and situated on the ridge which "is proposed by yourself as the future boundary.

7. "The inhabitants have little intercourse with the hills, and object to the Nílgiris as "their kacherí, begging that they may be left as they are with Manargat their kacherí, and "Walnád their táluq.

"These villagers talk Canarese, and their village is at a considerable elevation.

8. "To reach the Kundás a very deep valley has to be crossed with a fine stream flowing "at the bottom.

9. "I have now to make some remarks on that portion of Malabar District, the transfer of "which has not been objected to by you.

"It is uninhabited it may be said with the exception of a group of villages known as the "Kíl-kunda villages. They are Mel-kunda, Kíl-kunda, Keri-pádu, Aminagalu Víkathi.

10. "I have had an opportunity, during the last few days, of frequently conversing with "the Bargars who inhabit these villages, and they have urged such vehement objections to the "change, that I have no choice but to bring their wishes to notice.

"They say that formerly they were attached to Utakamand, which was considered by them a "great hardship, and that on the transfer of that portion of the Nílgiris from Malabar to Coim- "batore, they represented their objections to the Collector, and the Kundás were accordingly "retained. They have ever since considered the change a great benefit and cannot understand "why the Government should propose again to join them to Utakamand.

11. "As regards their preference of Manargat to Coimbatore, it is easy to account for it, "as they have their relatives half way and avoid the marked change of climate which would be "experienced in going to Coimbatore. They also keep a large portion of their cattle at the "deserted village of Munyúr in the Attapadí valley during several months.

"That they should prefer Manár, however, to Utakamand, does seem to me strange, and I "should be inclined to attribute it to the natural objection to change, were it not that they "have already had a practical experience of both.

"Be this as it may, their aversion to any connection with Utakamand and the Nílgiris "is most decided, and I have, therefore, only to record it.

12. "The Kunda villages are under a Maniyakáran, one of the respectable inhabitants on "4 Rupees a month, and they are visited once a year by the the Manargat Péshkár, the tour of "these and the Attapadi villages occupying six days.

13. "Enclosed is a sketch showing such of the villages as arenot marked in the Survey map."

7. The perusal of these letters must convince any one, that the interests of the people of Malabar are very large in the Attapadi valley ; that the line of trade is to the west, to the coast by the rivers which alone enable the traders to move the timber and render it a marketable article, which, from its great bulk, it would not be, except in an inferior degree. All the sympa- thies of the people in the valley, we see, are with Manár, a town near the hills in the Walawanád táluq and formerly a large and flourishing emporium of trade, whilst the tobacco monopoly

existed. Even now the constant request of the people of that part of the District is, that the valley may be opened up and the trace now existing converted into a good road.

8. I cannot help thinking that the transfer of the valley to Coimbatore, would inflict heavy loss on the people of the province.

9. The little that is known of that part of the country by the Coimbatore authorities, shows how very slight the connection between it and that province is.

10. How inconvenient it would be for a wood merchant to have a couple of black-wood trees, valued at Rupees 200 each stolen, and after the trouble of tracing them and perhaps ultimately finding them at Ponáni, to be told that he must prosecute his case before the Court at Coimbatore, distant 140 miles. This is what would undoubtedly happen, and the chances of its happening are increased by the difficulties of prosecution. It is also to be remembered that in Coimbatore, Malayalam is not known or spoken. All the Malabar proprietors interested in the transfer, protest loudly against the change. This of course is to be expected, and their reasons must be obvious to any one. For my own part, I think they may justly look to Government to allow them to retain their interests, within the jurisdiction of the Malabar Courts. The District Engineer of Coimbatore, when he proposed the transfer of the valley to that province, was evidently unaware of the value of the property he proposed to deal with; and, if I recollect aright, he talked of the country as abounding in timber of a stunted growth.

11. If the question of a deficiency of supply of water for any great reservoir to be constructed in the valley should hereafter arise, it may then be discussed on its own merits, but until that time at least, I do not recommend that any transfer of country be attempted.

12. As the Board's Proceedings were received only two days before my report about the change of táluqs was sent on to Mr. Pelly, I was unable to comply with their directions, as it was necessary to enquire into the question of the propriety or otherwise of the transfer of the Attapadi valley to Coimbatore.

I, therefore, beg that this letter may be placed before Mr. Pelly, if not too late to be of use in enabling him to come to a right decision on the point at issue.

———

Resolved that the above letter be laid before Government, in continuation of the Board's Proceedings, dated 21st November last, No. 4757.

2. In those Proceedings, while advocating the transfer of the Kundás from the Malabar to the Coimbatore District the Board reserved the question of the transfer of the Attapadi valley to Coimbatore and of the nook of land in the angle between the Moyár and the other river to Malabar, for further consideration.

3. The reasons now urged by Mr. Grant and his Assistant, Mr. McGregor, against the transfer of the Attapadi valley are so strong that the Board are not prepared to recommend the measure.

4. The transfer to Wynád of the nook of land above referred to seems desirable, and the Board recommend it.

5. Mr. Pelly concurs in the views above expressed.

6. A copy of those parts of Mr. Grant's letter, which refer to the extensive felling of timber in those tracts, will be forwarded to the Conservator of Forests, for his information.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM, *Secretary.*

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No. 61. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 4th February 1860, No. 614.

Read the following letter from E. B. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Fort St. George, dated Coimbatore, 23rd January 1860, No. 10:—

With reference to paragraphs 15 and 16 of the Board's Proceedings, dated 21st November 1859, No. 4757, I have the honor to forward copy of correspondence between the Collector of Malabar and myself, from which it will appear that we both concur in opinion as to the advisability of transferring to Wynád the nook of land between the "Moyár" and the other river.

2. As regards the Attapadi valley, it is not of much value to either District, except in an Engineering point of view, and which chiefly concerns and benefits Coimbatore, and I am of opinion that it is advisable to transfer it to this District. Mr. Grant has not as yet communicated to me the result of his enquiry in regard to its bearing with reference to the people of Malabar: when I hear from him again, I will duly report to the Board on the subject.

3. I have communicated my views and the above correspondence to Mr. Pelly also, as directed in paragraph 20 of the Board's Proceedings, under reply.

———

Resolved that a copy of the above letter be submitted to Government, with reference to the Board's Proceedings, dated 31st January 1860, No. 527.

2. The Board adhere to the opinion expressed in the above Proceedings, regarding the Attapadi valley.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM, *Secretary.*

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No. 62. ORDER THEREON, 16th March 1860, No. 396.

The three papers above recorded relate to certain proposals that have been made for altering the boundary of the Coimbatore and Malabar Districts on and near the Nílgiri Hills.

2. The first proposal was to transfer to Coimbatore that part of the Plateau of the Nílgiris now belonging to Malabar, comprizing the Kunda range; and to adopt as the boundary the western crest or edge of the Plateau. This proposal is discussed by the Board in their Proceedings of the 21st November 1859, and is approved by them.

3. A further proposition was afterwards made by Mr. Fraser, District Engineer of Coimbatore, viz. that the boundary of that District should be extended to include the upper valley of the Bawáni, or Attapadi valley as it is called. This proposal is the subject of the Board's Proceedings of the 31st January and 4th February.

4. Mr. Fraser's reason for the suggestion was drawn from the geographical position of the tract; his object being to make the further watershed of the Bawáni the boundary of Coimbatore, so as to give the whole of that river and its valley to that District. The Collector of Malabar, however, brings forward other considerations,* drawn from the ownership of the land, the castes and language of the inhabitants, and the course of the timber trade which forms their chief occupation, to show that the valley properly belongs to Malabar. The Board of Revenue recognize the validity of these reasons, and recommend that the Attapadi valley should remain attached to Malabar.

* *To Board of Revenue January 9th* 1860.

5. There is a small nook of land between the Moyár and one of its tributaries, immediately above the point of confluence, which Mr. Fraser proposes to transfer from Coimbatore to Malabar, the object being to have the former river for a boundary up to the point of confluence. All the authorities consulted agree in the propriety of this transfer.

6. The Government have carefully considered all that is brought forward for and against these several propositions, and they concur, on each one, in the opinion expressed by the Board of Revenue.

7. The Malabar portion of the Plateau of the Nílgiris will therefore be transferred to Coimbatore, as marked green in the map forwarded with Mr. Grant's letter of the 6th July 1859; and the small nook of land on the Moyár will be transferred from Coimbatore to Malabar. The Attapadi valley will remain attached to the latter District.

8. The necessary Notification of the transfers here ordered, will be made in the Fort Saint George Gazette.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,
Secretary to Government.

In Con. 2d May 1859, No. 1939.

From P. GRANT, Esq., Collector of MALABAR,
dated Calicut, 25th April 1859, No. 82.

In Proceedings of Board of Revenue, No. 905 and dated March 16th 1859, I am called on to report on the advisability or otherwise of including the whole plateau of the Neilgherries in the Coimbatore Collectorate.

2. In para. 2 of the Right Honorable Lord Harris' Minute it is stated, that the Acting Collector and Acting District Engineer pointed out the great inconvenience which arises from the present arrangement, but they do not seem to have stated what it is.

3. The District Engineer who has charge for the present of the bungalows on the Koondahs, and of the roads leading down the Ghauts, would perhaps be able to obtain more ready assistance from the inhabitants on the Hills were they under the revenue authorities of Coimbatore, but beyond this I do not see what advantage he is likely to derive from the transfer.

4. The Ghauts also, which no doubt give him most trouble, are beyond the limits of the plateau, so that to place them within the boundary of Coimbatore, the country to be transferred would require to run to the base of the Hills, or else the plateau alone being made over, the Ghauts might form part of the charge of the Coimbatore Engineer—they now belong to the range of the District Engineer of Malabar.

5. I believe the plateau of the Koondahs might be made over to the province of Coimbatore without any great inconvenience, but the transfer of the forest land on the slopes, part of which is the private property of Malabar proprietors, would cause inconvenience and annoyance to their owners; as in the event of any petty revenue dispute they would have to go a great distance to Coimbatore for its settlement.

6. However it is no use discussing this point until I am informed of the proposed boundary line, and of the sentiments of the Coimbatore Collector, who may bring forward reasons for the transfer, which will at once overcome any objection to it.

1859 Despatch.

Enclosure No. 2 in Despatch from the Board of Revenue to the Secretary to Government Fort St. George Revenue Department dated 21st November 1859 No. 4785.

Received 24th Nov. 59.

Letter from the Collector of Malabar to the Board of Revenue dated 25th April 1859 No. 82 – regarding the transference of the Neilgherries and the Coimbatore Division to the District of Coimbatore.

IN CON. 14TH JULY 1859, No 3462.

From P. GRANT, Esq., Collector of MALABAR,

dated Calicut, 6th July 1859, No. 159.

* With Enclosures (herewith returned),
† Colored Lake.
‡ „ Yellow.
§ „ Green.

In reply to your letter* of the 17th ultimo, I beg to enclose a tracing in which are exhibited the present boundary† between Coimbatore and Malabar, the proposed boundary‡ suggested by the district Engineer of Coimbatore, and the boundary§ defining the plateau of the Koondahs, which alone, I think, should at present at least be transferred to Coimbatore.

2. All things considered, I am of opinion that the annexation of the Koondah plateau to the Neilgherries is politic in a public point of view. But I dissent from Mr. Fraser's view, that the executive charge of the Sissparah Ghaut, i. e., the lower portion of it, should be left under the District Engineer of Malabar. It lies in a distant part of the province, far removed from any population, and especially feverish to the Native constitution. Labor for its repair must come from above the Ghaut, and the authority who has control over the laboring people, should certainly have charge of the work; on this point I conceive there can be but one opinion, and I would, on public grounds, deprecate any other arrangements.

3. With regard to the Goodaloor Ghaut, I do not feel competent to express an equally decided opinion. I have never traversed it, and therefore I am ignorant of the circumstances of that part of the country; but from what I have heard by report, I conclude that Mr. Fraser's remark is correct, viz., that labor is to be procured from below the Ghaut. Mr. Thomas, Special Assistant Collector, who knows the localities, thinks that the Coimbatore Engineer should have charge of the Ghaut, as far down as Nediwattum.

4. As to the Carcoor Ghaut, that must remain, I believe, under the executive charge of the Malabar District Engineer.

5. Besides the transfer of the Koondah plateau, Mr. Fraser, in paras. 11, 12, 13 and 14, proposes to add about 200 square miles of this district to Coimbatore. I

The Bhowany valley.

trust that such a proposition will not be hastily adopted. To run one's eye on a map along the water shed of a country, and say that such and such country should properly be under a particular officer, may suit the views of one who has a magnificent project (perfectly feasible perhaps in itself,) in his mind's eye; but I consider that the rights and interests of those most intimately concerned, namely, the land owners,—many of whom I know have property within the proposed boundary—should receive some consideration. It would no doubt cause discontent in the minds of the Malabar proprietors, to be told, without previous communication with them, that certain of their lands had been transferred to the neighbouring district, and that they must in future have recourse to its Courts and Magisterial offices, for the settlement of all civil and criminal cases, where their language and customs are unknown.

6. I believe that there is a considerable quantity of large teak, poon and other valuable timber in this country,* that the Malayalum element enters more largely

* The Bhowany valley.

into the social relations of its people than Mr. Fraser supposes, and that Malayalum is the language of many of them; a mixture of the two languages no doubt exists.

7. If Government resolve that the transfer is to be made, I must distinctly state that my present knowledge of the country, its people and their rights, is so limited, that without going into the question regularly and being allowed full time to master it, I am unprepared to advocate the step.

8. With the Koondahs I am acquainted, having passed several weeks on them in 1849.

9. The boundary proposed by me would start from the frontier of Coimbatore, (vide Atlas No. 61,) at Soondaputty—a village on the left bank of the stream which flows from the Attapaddy valley into the Bhowany river, and running up the small curved saddle proceed direct over the water shed westward, all along to the "Enginda Peak," (a trigonometrical point), and thence northward to the "Gullikul Hill," from which the line would be the same as proposed by the District Engineer of Coimbatore. The red dotted line in the accom-

* Colored Green.

panying sketch exhibits the portion* I propose to transfer to Coimbatore.

10. A statement, exhibiting the rates of assessment in the various umshoms included in the parts of the country under reference, is enclosed.

11. The amount of the present revenue in the Mel and Keel Koondah umshoms, on the Koondahs, is Rupees 525-8-10 per annum, while in the Attapaddy umshom, in the Bhowany valley, it comes to Rupees 337-8-6.

12. The land now under cultivation on the Koondahs is very limited, but it will remain so, only, so long as a good broad bandy road to Sissparah is not in existence.

The scenery, climate and soil of those hills are in favor of European settlers.

P. S.—The valley through which the "Bhowany" flows should properly be called by the name of that river, but it is commonly talked of as the Attapaddy valley, from the village of that name being situated in it.

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ENC. 1.

STATEMENT shewing the demand of Assessment in the Attapaddy, Kinakara and Malkoondah and Keelkoondah umshoms of the Walloowanaad talook for Fusly 1268, (1858-59.)

	Land.																Moturpha.														Total of Cols. 9 and 17.		
	Coothoocadoo or Tax on cultivation by Hoe.				Yercadoo or Tax on cultivation by Plough.				Total.				Remission.				Net Demand.				Houses.			Sundries.		Beriz.			Remission.			Net Demand.			
	No. of lands.	Beriz.			No. of lands.	Beriz.			No.	Beriz.											At 1 Fanam.	At 2 Fanams.	At 4 Fanams.	Buffaloe at 1 Fanam per head.	Blacksmiths' tools at 8 Fanams.										
1	2	3			4	5			6	7			8				9				10	11	12	13	14	15			16			17			18		
		Rs.	A.	P.		Rs.	A.	P.		Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.		Rs.	A.	P.							Rs.	A.	P.	R.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Attapady Kinakara in the Arakoorshy umshom.	406	235	11	1	74	88	12	8	480	324	7	9	92	15	3		231	8	6		28	158	2	19	...	106	0	0	...	..	...	106	0	0	337	8	6
Malkoondah, Keelkoondah.	265	165	14	7	296	303	11	4	561	469	9	11	30	1	2		439	8	9		121	...	...	172	1	86	0	1	...	..	..	86	0	1	525	8	10
Total...	671	401	9	8	370	392	8	0	104	1794	1	8	123	0	5		671	1	3		149	158	2	191	1	192	0	1	...	...	...	192	0	1	863	1	4

CALICUT,
6th July 1859.

(Signed) P. GRANT,
Collector.

ENC. 2.

ABSTRACT.—Extract from Arrowsmith's Atlas, No. 61, exhibiting the Neilgherry Plateau, proposed to be transferred from the Malabar to the Coimbatore district.

Ms. in their Proc. of the 21st
Nov. 59, & is attended by these
3. A further protection
was afterwards made by Mr.
Fraser, District Surv. of Columbia,
viz. that the boundary of that
District should be extended
to include the upper valley of the
Bawpin, or attabasca valley
as it is called. This proposal
is [illegible] the subject of
the Honble Discussions of the
31st Jany & 4th Feby.
4. Mr. Fraser's reasons
for the suggestion are drawn from
the geographical position of the
Coast; his Object being to make
the further watershed of the
Bawpin the boundary of Columbia,
so as to give the whole of that
river & its valley to that District.
The Colr. of waters flowing,

* To Ms. of Rev.

drawn from the ownership
of the land, the castes & language
of the inhabitants, & the course
of the trading routes, which
form their chief occupation,
to show that the valley belongs
always to Mexico. The
Ms. of Rev. recognize the validity
of these reasons & recommend that the attabasca
valley should remain at-
tached to Mexico.
5. There is a small
work of land between the
mouth of one of its tributaries,
Mayer & the
immediately at the point of
the confluence,
which Mr Fraser
proposes to transfer from
Columbia to Mexico, the
Object being to have the
former river for a boundary up to
the point of confluence. All
the settlements created upon

in the territory of this transfer-

6. The Govt have carefully considered all that is brought forward for & against these several positions, & they concur, on each one, in the opinion entertained by the Govt of Madras.

7. The Collector in charge of the Palghaut & Coimbatore Division is to transfer to Coimbatore, as marked green in the map forwarded with Mr Grant's letter of the 6th July/59; & the small piece of land on the Moyar will be transferred from Coimbatore to Malabar - the Attapaddi valley will remain attached to the latter district.

8. The necessary notification of the transfers here ordered, will be made in the Fort St George Gazette.

11 Copies
Govt of Madras with Govt Dispatch

c 2: March 1860.

Notification.

It is hereby notified for the information of all concerned that the Honorable the Governor in Council has directed the transfer to the District of Coimbatore of that part of the Palaca of the Nilgiris now belonging to Malabar, comprising the Kundah range; also the transfer from the former to the latter district of a small piece of land at the confluence of the Moyar river and its Western tributary on the confines of the Mysore Territory. These

2. These transfers
will take effect from
the 1st May 1860.

BDS Ch. 33-34
15-9-59