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M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1000 Press ~~Mis.~~

141-142.

Dated 7 - 5 - 1862.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 7th May 1862.

No. 141. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 27th March 1862, No. 2,026 :—

Read the following letter from E. B. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Chepauk, dated Ootacamund, 20th December 1861, No. 265.

SIR,

1. In reply to your Official Memorandum of 26th ultimo, I would beg to observe that the Board, in their Proceedings dated 28th February 1861, No. 1,116, paragraph 2, suggested my taking advantage of Mr. Robinson's presence and information on the subject alluded to. I have waited partly under a hope that that officer might be available ; this has not been the case.

2. I really am not aware what I can usefully say beyond my letter of the 20th November 1861, No. 225, paragraph 10. I wrote to the Collector of Malabar for the very voluminous records and letters in his office, bearing on the case. A portion (only) were sent to me, and called for back again some time ago. I cannot now refer to them, though I examined such as were sent me at the time.

3. I can only repeat, that to my judgment, it appears that the original claims of the two Rajahs (the Numbalacotah, who was supposed to claim, and the Nellumboor, who for a small sum *brought* those claims), never really extended beyond the foot of the Neilgherries ; that they never ascended, nor held anything above the base or "Adivaram." This is the testimony of the Hill *tribes*, Todars, and others, who have, now at least, no interest in giving any partial view of the matter. This may I think also fairly be said to be in the main the view taken by the Government itself, in Government Order of 29th March 1860, No. 484, and by most of the public Officers who went into the case.

4. The Numbalacotah, and consequently the Nellumboor Rajah's real rights, ceased, I am persuaded, at the outer *base* of the Hills ; unknown and dreaded, as the Hills then were, no Wainád proprietor was likely to ascend them, or claim any portion of them ; nor does it appear that any permission, of any Rajah or supposed proprietor, was ever asked, to cut the Goodaloor *Ghát* or build the Neddiwuttum Bungalow, both constructed some 30 years ago.

5. All the plateau of the Neilgherries, as I now understand the Board to intend, has been duly taken into Coimbatore, "excluding" (as ordered) Mr. Ouchterlony's Coffee valley. This differs from the mode of demarcation obtaining on all other sides, Mysore to the north, Malabar to the west, where the Coimbatore limits run down the Ghâts generally to the foot of the Hills, and on the south west side, crosses a deep valley (similar to that of Goodaloor ordered to be "excluded") to take charge of the Burgher villages and land on a lower range of Hill called Kinnakarry.

i. e., all within the higher peaks and upper range of Hills.

6. In paragraph 16 of No. 1,845, 17th April 1860, Government speak of the Nellumboor Rajah having conveyed to Mr. Ouchterlony a portion of the land in dispute ; while in paragraph 1 of 28th February 1861, No. 1,116, they say Mr. Ouchterlony's land is not included in the tract transferred to Coimbatore. If therefore the plateau ends at the western crest or edge of the higher range, the present boundary of Coimbatore is clear enough ; there are no forests to speak of on the plateau, and I do not think the Rajah ever really claimed so high, but only to the slopes and valuable forests upon *them* ; the naked peaks on the edge of the upper plateau are not worth claiming either for purchase or sale, whether by the Rajah or Government.

7. Government have lately taken the *slopes* south west of the Neddiwuttum Bungalow, for their Cinchona plantations, and under the expected new rules, no doubt there will be other applications for land on these slopes. I would beg to suggest that such land if applied for, be given to applicants, and the Rajah be informed that Government do not recognize his or other claims above the base or foot of the Hills.

The Map received with the Order of Government, dated 27th November 1860, No. 2,247, is returned herewith.

29th March 1860, No. 484, Revenue Department.
28th September 1860, No. 1,731.
27th November 1860, No. 2,247.

1. Ordered that the above letter be submitted to Government, with reference to their Proceedings noted in the margin.

2. In the first of these Proceedings, paragraphs 11 to 16 and paragraph 18, Government reviewed the claim of the Nellumboor Rajah to that part of the Neilgherry range, in which he has "sold or leased or mortgaged a large extent of land to Mr. Ouchterlony," and directed the Collector of Coimbatore to inquire into the claim which is based on the assertion that the tract in question formed part of the Numbalacotah property, which has come into the possession of the Nellumboor Rajah.

3. In the second Proceedings, they declared that the land in question did not form part of that portion of Malabar which had been transferred to Coimbatore, and that therefore the Collector was mistaken in supposing that the first order applied to the land occupied by Mr. Ouchterlony, and in the last Proceedings this interpretation of the original order is maintained.

4. It was not, however, ordered that the inquiry, which was as necessary as ever, should be made by the Collector of Malabar in whose District the tract must be situated, if it has not been transferred to Coimbatore.

5. The Board consider it most desirable that the question of the right to this tract should be decided as speedily as possible, and they would recommend that it be taken up at once. They append an extract from an old record in their Office, which appears to them to afford very important evidence on the matter, and they would recommend that the Collector of Malabar be instructed in communication with the Officers of the Survey and Settlement Departments, who have been employed in the Wainád, to submit a full report on the subject. He may perhaps be able to find the original of the paper, and to identify the boundaries and localities named in it.

From J. Sullivan, Esq., to Chief Secretary to Government, 29th January 1841.
From Acting Collector of Malabar, to Board of Revenue, 4th January 1858.

6. For facility of reference, the Board enclose the extracts of correspondence noted in the margin.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Secretary.*

Extract from a letter from Captain T. S. Osborne, dated 27th May 1801, enclosed in the letter from the Commissioner of Malabar, dated 17th, in Consultation 29th June 1801.

No. 1.

Information given by Parura Chetty, Killian Kotty Chetty, Ombillahden Pannikar, and Lungayan of the caste called Arrashy, the Chief of the Chettys.

* * * * *

The amount of the Revenue derived from Numbalacottah is thought to be about 2,000 Paddies of Nella, 6,000 fanams weight of Gold, 2 Candies of Lac and 200 Cootties of honey yearly; there is also one Cardamum Hill at Deuralcota.

On the east this country is bounded by Keakotta Poya (river) and Mothoomolla mountain; on the west by Karinshola and Nayahta Ouna or rocks; on the north by Nellakoal, Tarah in Parahametal Hobily; and on the south by Alamalla Cherrum and Karracoat Cherrum, leading to Tachannaterrumoolpattic-dasheum in Ernaad, through which Karracoat Pass Tippoo Sultan cut a good road from Moothoomolla to Calicut; the extent of this country from east to west is said to be about 15 miles, and about 20 from north to south. The country on its eastern boundary is Mysore.

To the south-east of Numbalacottah is Mulnad the road to which leads through a part called Goodaloor in Numbalacotah, and continues to the house of a Badagan, where there is an exceeding steep Hill, to ascend the summit of which is the country called Mulnad, which is also represented to be then inhabited by Badagas, and is said to be from the bottom of the before described hill, to a river at the foot of it, on its south extremity about 20 miles in extent, when you enter another country called Mokanaad exceeding mountainous and inhabited by Badagas,

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 7th May 1862.

Todars, and Koters; the occupation of the Badagas is already described; the Todars are herdsmen and reported to have great numbers of buffaloes, the hides for which they carry for sale to Coimbatore which this District is said to be subject to. Knahterra follow the occupation of blacksmiths, bricklayers, silversmiths, basket-makers and carriers; this country is computed to be 20 miles in extent from the above-mentioned river to a country on its southern boundary called Koonda, from which latter, the country on its southern boundary called Attapahdy it is calculated to be 25 miles, and about 20 more between that and the country above Mhunar Ghát from whence it is ten more to Palghaut.

No. 142. ORDER THEREON, 7th May 1862, No. 1,000.

The course proposed in paragraph 5 of the Board's Proceedings should be adopted.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

claim abhorred

Extract from a letter from the Acting Collector of Malabar to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue dated 4th June 1858 No 90 A.

× × ×

Nelamboor Tirooshad's claim to the Neidgherry Plateau.

Para 30 I have carefully looked into the claim of the Tirooshad to a portion of the Neidgherry Plateau between the crest of the Hills at Neddevattam and the Pycara river - It is based on the claim of the Temple of the Nambalakode Bhagavatty the family deity of the Varmaver, in whose name he ruled and administered the property to certain services & contributions by the Burghers living on the Hills. The claim that is brought forward is no doubt a fabrication - No Deeds were executed or executed in those days - It is by no means improbable that from time to time the wild free inhabitants of those then inaccessible regions did visit the nearest and only temple of importance within several days journey of their homes and that they presented annual offering, but this is not sufficient to constitute

claim abstained

constitute a jenmem in the proper sense of that term under the Kanom Jenmom Maryada of Malabar. The temple had disappeared and the services are almost gone. the claim should cease likewise. No part of the Neilgherry Plateau forms an integral part of Malabar. There is not a Malabarean resident upon them and however considerately I would deal with the Jenmom title in Malabar and Wynad Proper, these ill defined bare claims set up by Malabar Proprietors to the Neilgherry Plateau should be disallowed at once. On this ground alone I should be prepared to advocate the immediate transfer of both the Neddivattom and Koondah Hills to the District of Coimbatoor.—

Recommended transfer of Neddavatty Koondah to Coimbatoor.

(True Extract.)

Sub Secretary

Corp. Etc.

It appears to me that the land in dispute embraces entirely the land purchased or rented by Mr Achtelung below Neddivattom but also that part of the Plateau extending from Neddivattom to the Pykara River. That is it embraces Land in both Collectorates

I have inviolately this memo. this term "and" as referring to "claim" and "as referring to doesn't admit any claim to this Hill probably which is

para 17 Coimbatoor Report on an investigation into the question of the part below Neddivattom which lies in Malabar - This comes recommended in Para 5 of Board's order should be adopted -

p. 12 & 18.

See the order of 29 March 1860 No. 484, para 17 & 18 the Govt. decided that "no claim on the part of the State to the Nanjanad Palacottah estate proper, could be sustained, but that there seemed to be good reason to believe that the tract between the Paikara River on the East & the crest of the Neilgherry ridge on the West, viewed generally belonged to that property & that the claims advanced

& he an interpretation.
They first then desired
the Court of Commissioners
to view & mark out
this tract, & has
added, that
part of the plateau
of the Neighbourhood
had recently been
traversed & cleared
& part, a thin cover.
Inviting the Court
of Mediators if necessary, as to the
means proper to
be taken in order
to bring the case
to an issue -

The order in which
the transfer was
directed is dated
16 March 1860 -

The Court of Commissioners
before adopted some
measures (if such
they can be called)
which may be seen
in the Minutes of
Mr Rochester's
who holds a large
extent of land
in the Portalow
Valley - Mr O.
maintained that
his land was not
included in the
tract transferred
by Commissioners to Mr Thomas
and had nothing in it
at all. Mr Thomas
held a different
view. Asked on
~~the motion to state~~
the statement in
para 16 of the P.O.
29 March 1860, Clerk

declaring that Mr. A's land was in the disputed tract, and the statement in para 18 that the tract had been transferred to Coimbatore.

The Govt. informed Mr. Thomas that he was in error. The fact, I presume being, that the transfer did not include the whole disputed tract but only the plateau & that Mr. A's land which is in the former, is not in the latter.

It was a mistake however & not to reflect on Mr. Thomas of the Dept of Reporting, for it could appear, that only the really valuable part of the tract was, after all, in Malabar.

The Govt. now proposes that enquiry in to the rights of the Rajah be at once made by the Collr. of Malabar in communication with the Officers of the Survey & Settlement Dept. in Wynad.

There are some Forest lands (Reserves) adjoining this tract in Wynad, to which

pt. also lay claim.
In these cases
proceedings were
stayed pending
the Survey of Wyad.

I think it would
be better in this
case also to take
upon the Dr. Rest.
settlement & to
report & let them the
title of the Rajah
has come under
the cognizance of
this Dept. or is likely
to do so soon.
I do not see that
the Govt. can do in
the matter as he
has no power to
compel the Rajah

The course proposed in Pr of the Bds Pro. may, I think, be tried

Ellis

to produce his title-
deeds - and an en-
-quiry out of the
usual course will
raise some clamour.
Per the Govt to
the Director. pt
Com decide what
course they should
adopt -

J. D.

EXTRACT from a letter from Captain T. S. Osborne, dated 27th May 1801, enclosed in the letter from the Commissioner of Malabar, dated 17th, in Cons. 29th June 1801.

No. 1.

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Pro 11th July 1813 No 27@32
" 29 March 60--104-105
28th Sept.r - - - -497-498
27 Nov.r - - - -459-460

Repeated to Govt 23 May 65
No 5 Misc.l Cons.

Rev.e 1862. Department.
Pro.s of Govt for Mary.
No. 972.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 27th March 1862.
Despatched, 3 April —
Received, —
Encl 2 & 1 Plan

From Mr Lushington's Letter
Cir.r 2391.

No. 2,026.

Submitting with remarks letter from the Collector of Coimbatore reporting on the claim of the Nellumboor Rajah to a portion of the Neilgherry range.

No 1000

1 The course proposed in para 5 of the Board's Proceedings should be adopted.

J B S

From Mr Secy Grant
7th January 1862

Mr Ghest to the Bd of Rev
Cir No 8
Bd of Rev to Collectors
Supt of Rev Surveys

No 1000 - 7 May
Wm Arbuthnot

No 11 & 112

Cir 17 April No 29