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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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No. 113. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 23rd June 1875, No. 1,743 :—

Read the following letter from W. LOGAN, Esq., Acting Collector of Malabar, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Calicut, 16th June 1875, No. 200 :—

With reference to Government Order, Revenue Department, No. 512, dated 2nd April 1875, I have the honor to submit, for the consideration of the Board, that, as the value of all lands will be enhanced in the auriferous tracts in Wynaad should gold eventually be proved to prevail in paying quantities over such an extensive region as Mr. King supposes, it will be of the utmost importance, both for the interests of Government and for the country at large, that a survey should be made *at as early a date as possible*, and that the exact limits of Government land and of private land should be demarcated.

2. If it was in Malabar, as in other districts, that all lands not already brought under cultivation belong to Government, it would not be at all difficult, in a sparsely-peopled country like Wynaad, speedily and satisfactorily to settle what I fancy will very soon be a question of the very greatest importance should gold-mining in Wynaad turn out to be a remunerative speculation, *viz.*, the proprietorship of lands containing auriferous quartz. But (as the Board are well aware) the question of the proprietorship of waste lands is often in this district a most intricate one, and, therefore, both in the interests of Government and of the public, I think that the EARLIEST opportunity should be taken to place permanently on record the admitted rights or disputed questions connected with this subject.

3. As an instance in point I may mention that there exists in a portion of the country already surveyed near Devalah a dispute among two or three planters as to the ownership of some grass land which is now known to be auriferous, but which, at the time of the survey, was pointed out by all the parties now disputing as Government waste; and it is obvious that there will be a tendency everywhere for such questions to crop up as the value of each particular spot becomes known.

4. I would, therefore, strongly urge on the Board the necessity for largely strengthening the survey party which will commence operations as soon as the season will admit. I had an opportunity lately of conferring with Captain Cloete regarding the work already done in Wynaad. It is most fortunate that so much should have already been accomplished in the very spot where a survey, in view of this gold-question, is most needed, but little or nothing apparently has been done in the direction of demarcating *private forests and waste lands belonging to natives*. The demarcation of these *now* will, I am certain, save much litigation hereafter, and I shall be glad if the Board will strongly support my recommendation that the survey party sent down in the ensuing season be largely strengthened.

5. I hope to pay an early visit to South-east Wynaad in connection with a forest-question now pending between the Nilgiris Commissioner and the Nilambur Tirumalpad, and I shall at the same time take advantage of the opportunity to make certain inquiries which will enable me to advise Captain Cloete as to the particulars which should be entered in his survey registers, and about which I am aware he has now some difficulty.