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WYNAAD—PLANTERS.

Read the following papers:—

No. 31. From A. MACGREGOR, Esq., Collector of Malabar, to the Hon. D. F. CARMICHAEL, Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Calicut, 2nd October 1874, No. 68.

I have the honor to forward a letter from the Honorary Secretary, Wynaad Planters' Association, Vythery, which embodies a Resolution passed at a recent meeting of the Association regarding the question of headquarters in Wynaad.

2. The fact stated that the Planters of South and South-East Wynaad number ninety-five compared to fourteen in North Wynaad is correct. The number of the latter was reported by me as twenty, since which time six have migrated to South Wynaad, their places in the North not having been filled up.

3. The presence of European Planters in one part of Wynaad and their absence in another is a direct index of a corresponding activity or the reverse in business, expenditure of money, importation of labor, carriage of produce, &c.; in fact, in all those transactions which set Magisterial, Revenue, and Police Officers at work. The location of such officers in a place thirty miles distant from the centre of business is a step which I have already strongly deprecated.

4. The Secretary informs me that the Association are anxious to send a deputation at once to Ootacamund to present an Address to His Excellency the Governor on this subject and name the 16th instant as the date on which they would, if permitted, attend.

5. Possibly, as His Excellency purposes visiting South-East Wynaad in the beginning of November, it would be considered more convenient to postpone the matter till then.

6. In such a case it would be advisable to instruct the Special Executive Engineer not to take any measures on the late Order such as would embarrass the Government in the event of their recent orders being reconsidered.

From E. S. S. THOMPSON, Esq., Honorary Secretary, Wynaad Planters' Association, to the Hon. D. F. CARMICHAEL, Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Vythery, 1st October 1874.

I have the honor to inform you that I have been requested to lay before you the following Resolution which was unanimously carried at a general meeting of this Association held yesterday, at which thirty-six of its members were present:—

“The general body of the Planters of South and South-East Wynaad learn with astonishment that Manantoddy has been selected as the headquarters of the Deputy Collector and Assistant Superintendent of Police of Wynaad.

“In the opinion of this meeting the carrying out of such a proceeding is calculated to have a most injurious effect on the interests of the district, and, considering the number of estates and Planters in the North compared with those in South and South-East Wynaad, it is eminently unfair.

“It is resolved, therefore, that a special deputation of this Association should wait upon Lord Hobart at an early opportunity to lay this subject clearly before the Government and at the same time to point out that the apparent apathy of the Planters of South and South-East Wynaad as to the selection of Manantoddy as the permanent station of the Government officials proceeded

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from the earnest wish of the Wynaad Planters' Association to refrain from assuming an antagonistic position towards that of North Wynaad in advocating a matter of local interest.

"And that a communication on the subject be immediately addressed to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, and forwarded to him through the Collector of the district."

2. I am further directed to point out to you that the silence of the Planters on this subject partly arose from the prevailing idea that the Government were fully aware of the superior claims of Vythery and that the question had already been decided in favor of that place. I have the honor to lay before you the following figures, which are reliable. In South and South-East Wynaad there are ninety-five (95) resident European Planters, in North Wynaad there are fourteen (14), and it is believed that native interests are nearly equally represented in all three divisions, though possibly North Wynaad has a small majority of Native Coffee Planters. Statistics as to names of the Europeans, number of estates, with area, &c., can be furnished if necessary.

3. I am to say that, though not absolutely the most central position, the Planters of both South and South-East Wynaad are unanimous in desiring that the Government headquarters of the taluq should be placed at Vythery. Manantoddy is at one end of the district and therefore quite unsuited for the purpose; whereas Vythery, while being fairly central, is by far the most populous and rising station in Wynaad.

4. In the late Order of Government disposing of this question Colonel Kennedy, the District Engineer, is said "to advocate Manantoddy particularly on the ground of its being less insalubrious than Vythery." I am desired to express the doubts of the Association as to the correctness of this assertion. Vythery is at a higher elevation than Manantoddy, and, being more favorably situated, is visited throughout the hot weather by a strong sea-breeze which, as a rule, sets in as early as 10 o'clock in the morning and continues all day, so that it would be naturally supposed to be the healthier station of the two.

5. In conclusion, I have the honor to beg that you will lay this letter before His Excellency the Governor in Council for his favorable consideration and to inform him that it is the humble, though earnest, petition of all the Planters in South and South-East Wynaad that the recent Order of Government on the subject may be rescinded and the offices of the Deputy Collector of Wynaad together with that of the Assistant Superintendent of Police transferred to Vythery.

No. 32. To HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HON.

VERE HENRY HOBART, LORD HOBART,

Governor of Fort St. George.

MY LORD,—We, the Committee of the Wynaad Planters' Association, beg most respectfully to welcome your arrival into our district and to express our extreme satisfaction at the opportunity now afforded to us of pointing out to your Lordship our most urgent requirements.

2. We have had the honor on two previous occasions of laying before your Lordship's predecessors the various wants of the district, and, while expressing our gratitude for what has been done, would venture respectfully to call your attention to the fact that most of the subjects to which we are about to refer are a repetition of those then alluded to.

3. Since October 1866, when we were honored by a visit from Lord Napier, there has been a marked improvement in the prosperity and importance of the district. In that year the area of land paying tax to Government was 21,500 acres while at the present moment there are no less than 34,000 acres under coffee cultivation, not including the Ouchterlony Valley, containing some 4000 acres, which has been ceded to the Nilgiri Commission.

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We are unable to furnish you with figures showing the revenue of the taluq in the year 1866; but a sufficient indication of the rapidly-increasing wealth of the district may be shown by a comparison extending over only two years.

In 1871-72 the total revenue from all sources was *Rupees* 2,00,800, in the past year the revenue was *Rupees* 2,16,700, and this notwithstanding the cession of the Ouchterlony Valley.

4. This prosperity is largely attributable to the assistance afforded us by Government in the matter of improved communications and the more liberal construction put upon the only law which exists between master and servant. Most particularly have we to thank your Lordship's Government for the recent satisfactory changes in our postal service, owing entirely to the energy and interest evinced by the present Postmaster-General.

5. But, notwithstanding the enhanced importance of the district, we are still in much the same position as regards the more pressing matters asked for, the main points being

The want of a resident European Magistrate in a central position,

An improved local Magistracy,

An efficient Labor Ordinance, and

A special Act to check the terribly-increasing crime of coffee-stealing.

6. It is the intention of the Planters to submit a memorial to your Lordship in Council which will deal at length with these latter subjects, so we will only briefly refer to them here. It is a deplorable fact that under the present inadequate law we are losing large sums of money yearly in advances; we are utterly unable to control the relations between employer and employed, and, though suffering seriously from the increasing want of labor, we are unable to compete with settlers in other more favored countries, who are attracting our own coolies from the very districts which should supply us, and are, moreover, able to keep them.

7. With regard to coffee-stealing, we regret to observe that your Lordship in Council does not deem that a law similar to the Madras Town Police Act is appropriate to, or necessary for, Wynaad. It is our respectful opinion that all the reasons existing in Madras for such an Act exist in the Wynaad with increased force, *viz.*, facility in the offence and difficulty of unassisted detection.

We humbly, though earnestly, trust that, when statistics of the great losses and difficulties which we incur are laid before you, your Lordship will be induced to reconsider your determination.

8. The principal subject with which we have to trouble your Lordship to-day is one to which our attention has been called by a recent Order of your Lordship's Government. We refer to the selection of the headquarters of the leading Wynaad officials.

A glance at a map of the district will at once demonstrate that Manantoddy is, geographically speaking, a most inconvenient situation and quite at one end of the taluq; but there are, doubtless, some reasons in favor of this site which influenced your Lordship in your recent decision.

We are of opinion that the largely-increased revenue and importance of the district would warrant the entertainment of a second European Magistrate for Wynaad; but, should such a measure prove impracticable, we must most strongly

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urge upon your Lordship the necessity of placing the taluq headquarters in the most central position to meet the convenience of the great majority of the Planters. It will be observed that a spot between Culpatty and Choondale would answer every requirement in this respect.

We are extremely averse to urging any measure suggestive of rivalry between the different portions of the district, and it was our impression that the question had already been quite differently decided by your Lordship's Government.

It has now become our imperative duty to point out clearly to your Lordship the true merits of the case. There are now 102 European residents in South and South-East Wynaad representing coffee plantations to the extent of 17,700 acres, while the native holdings number 3794 and their acreage is 5280, making a total of 22,980 acres under cultivation with coffee; and the actual expenditure in cash on the European estates in these two districts during the past year was Rupees 12,55,198.

In North Wynaad we believe that there are fifteen European Planters. Their extent of land paying tax amounts to 5640 acres, and there are 3428 native holdings owning 5384 acres, or a total of 11,024 acres; these figures, therefore, obviously show a large preponderance of Europeans who are unanimous in wishing that the headquarters of the district be established at the place before specified. It is true that, as far as native holders are concerned, their numbers are equal; but we presume that the total native population of South and South-East Wynaad combined must far exceed that of the North. In a district like Wynaad, however, the main point for consideration must be the fact that it is, in reality, an English settlement; and, bearing in mind the large capital the Europeans have introduced, the energy, spirit, and perseverance that they have shown, it is but fair to expect that their interests should receive the support which we humbly submit they so amply deserve.

An objection has been raised to the site which we advocate on the ground that it is not so salubrious as Manantoddy.

While recognizing the importance of locating the principal Government officials in the most healthy place practicable, we earnestly, but respectfully, maintain that Choondale will bear favorable comparison with Manantoddy.

There is a suitable site, which we have reason to believe could be obtained without any difficulty, possessing the advantages of an elevation of 3000 feet, a registered annual rainfall averaging 115 inches (which may be considered moderate for Wynaad), a climate suited to all classes, not forgetting the native community, and a position most fairly central for the whole district. As evidence of the unsuitability of the present headquarters of the officials we would quote the difficulty which our present Deputy Magistrate experiences in travelling throughout the district as freely and constantly as we have a right to expect.

9. In addition to our wants with regard to the European officials we must beg to call your Lordship's attention to the way in which the important sub-divisions of South and South-East Wynaad are treated in the matter of the Native Courts, which are the only seats of justice to which the residents there have to resort. At the present moment there are only 3rd-Class Native Magistrates at both Goodaloor and Vythery, neither of whom have any Munsif's powers. One case illustrative of the way in which the law is administered at these Courts may be

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briefly quoted. A contractor undertook to fell, clear, and pit 100 acres of forest land and obtained from the employer from time to time a sum amounting to Rupees 1,600 in advance. He felled forty acres of forest and since then has done nothing more whatever. The employer applied to the Vythery Court. After some trouble a warrant was issued, the defaulter arrested and convicted. The Magistrate's powers only enabled him to award as punishment one month's simple imprisonment, which consisted of being kept under restraint at Vythery, where the prisoner was allowed to have his own friends to wait upon him. The employer during this term attended the Court in order to file a civil suit for the recovery of the money. The answer he received was that the official there had no Munsif's powers and would not even receive the plaint. The culprit is now at large and the money is lost.

10. With regard to South-East Wynaad, we would suggest that the Court now located at Goodaloor be transferred with increased powers to Devala.

Your Lordship will probably raise the objection that Government have already spent large sums of money in erecting public buildings at Goodaloor; but we would humbly submit that these might be utilized, *first*, as a public bungalow, a want sorely felt for the convenience both of officials and the public generally, and, *secondly*, as a Jail, and again as a Post-Office, for which we understand a sum of Rupees 3,000 has been lately sanctioned.

11. To render any law effective in a district like this it is our humble opinion that Honorary Magistrates should be appointed with knowledge of the language as your Lordship may think fit. There are many European gentlemen of high standing and position in whom we are sure your Lordship's Government might place full confidence. Such a measure as this would obviate many of the existing difficulties with which we have to contend and at the same time afford additional protection to the natives.

12. We thank your Lordship for your lately-sanctioned re-organization of the Wynaad Police, though we would beg that the Assistant Superintendent may have his headquarters at Choondale together with the other leading officials.

We have to express our gratification at the improved state of our roads during the last few years, though we must remind your Lordship that a great deal has still to be done to render some of the most important lines even passable.

In conclusion, we beg to assure your Lordship that we feel the greatest confidence in the results of this your Lordship's first visit to Wynaad and the consideration which you will give to our wants and interests. We trust that you will honor us in like manner at a future date.

9th November 1874. We have the honor to be,

My Lord,
Your Lordship's most obedient servants,
(Signed) J. W. MINCHIN.
(") E. H. HAMLIN.
(") J. H. IRVINE.
(") W. V. HUDLESTON.
(") W. GOLE.
(") W. MACKINLAY.
(") J. S. VANREESEMA.
(") E. TROLLOPE.
(") E. A. TANQUERAY.
(") J. F. GAITSKELL.
(") E. S. S. THOMPSON.

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List of European Planters in Wynaad.

North Wynaad.

A. H. Anderson.
L. Boyer.
J. Brown.
Dr. Creame.
H. Dawson.
W. Dawson.
F. W. Ditmas.
C. Fletcher.
J. Lowry.
Captain Puddicombe.
W. T. Rayne.
T. R. Richmond.
C. F. Wilkins.
Colonel Wooldridge.
Dr. Huston.

South-East Wynaad.

E. Atkins.
R. V. Capps.
Captain Cox.
C. R. Dawson.
A. J. Griffin.
W. Gole.
P. C. Guard.
E. H. Hamlin.
J. H. Irvine.
J. W. Kenrick.
J. W. Minchin.
— Milne.
R. Wilkinson.
S. H. Powell.
W. Packard.
S. Prager.
J. J. Roberts.
H. V. Ryan.
J. W. Ryan.
A. H. Steedman.
J. H. Thompson.
A. Vigor.
G. Vigor.
A. Wright.
R. H. Williams.
Adol. Wright.
G. E. Withers.

South Wynaad.

H. Atzenwiler.
F. J. Budd.
A. B. Brabant.
A. Brown.

J. D. Bell.
G. Baumback.
A. Brunton.
H. Brunton.
T. J. Boosey.
H. W. Brown.
J. B. Buckham.
P. Batty.
G. F. Brown.
C. B. Barclay.
J. Cochran.
R. Darling.
J. Fargie.
J. Godfrey.
E. G. Gilbert.
J. F. Gaitskell.
Captain Gaitskell.
W. Grant.
A. Higgins.
G. L. Harcourt.
A. R. Higinbotham.
W. V. Hudleston.
J. W. Hockin.
E. P. Hughes.
— Henslowe.
Dr. Henderson.
Dr. Hannay.
C. Imray.
J. Jardine.
T. Jones.
E. Jones.
A. Kenny.
A. Lovett.
R. Leigh.
A. Lowe.
E. C. Mitchell.
J. R. Malcolm.
C. S. Moon.
W. Mackinlay.
T. Mitchell.
— Morteau.
S. Miller.
C. Mackenzie.
A. MacCulloch.
J. Nicholas.
C. A. Paterson.
P. S. Punnett.
H. Punnett.
C. Puddicombe.
W. Prager.

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R. Prager.
J. Robertson.
M. Rimington.
C. Y. Reed.
J. W. Smith.
J. Smith.
E. S. S. Thompson.
A. L. Tod.
E. A. Tangueray.
F. H. Tomlinson.
E. Trollope.

J. S. VanReeseema.
C. Wildes.
A. J. Wildes.
Geo. Wildes.
H. B. Winterbotham.
R. K. Walker.
R. West.
A. West.
C. Huxam.
J. B. Kibble.

No. 33. From Captain W. S. H. COX, to Captain A. AWDRY, R.E., Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor of Madras, dated Charambady, 2nd November 1874.

As it is not likely that any estate proprietor from the Charambady District will be present to meet His Excellency the Governor on his visit to Wynaad I have the honor to request that I may be allowed to represent in writing the necessity which exists for the better administration of justice in South-East Wynaad.

2. The public offices are now at Goodaloor, which is quite at one end of the district—a district which extends as far as Mopynaad, some thirty-five or forty miles from Goodaloor. The means of obtaining justice are thus withheld from the inhabitants of half the district, for no Planter, much less a native who would have to perform his journeys on foot, could give the time and expense which would be entailed in travelling backwards and forwards.

3. Added to this the present Magistrate at Goodaloor is furnished with such inferior powers that for the administration of the law, more especially cases coming under the Penal Code, he is practically useless.

4. The establishment at Devala—which is about the centre of the district and, moreover, a very healthy spot, while Goodaloor is a most unhealthy one—of a Magistrate invested with first-class powers is, I think, the most pressing requirement of South-East Wynaad.

No. 34.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HON.
VERE HENRY HOBART LORD HOBART,
Governor of the Presidency of Fort St. George.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Planters' Association of North Wynaad, desire to express our congratulations on your Lordship's visit to North Malabar, of which our district forms an important part. We regret that your Lordship has not had an opportunity of visiting Manantoddy, the principal town of the taluq and of the oldest coffee district of Wynaad. We are glad to see that the growing importance of the coffee interests have attracted the attention of Government, and we doubt not that the result of your Lordship's visit and personal inquiries will be highly beneficial to the taluq of Wynaad.

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We now desire, as shortly as possible, to lay before your Lordship the principal matters connected with our district which we consider require attention—

1. In 1866, in our Address to Lord Napier on his visit to Manantoddy, we had the honor to bring to his notice the inadequacy of Act XIII. of 1859 in its provisions against criminal breach of contract by laborers and artisans, and in his Lordship's reply he stated that the terms of the Act should be brought under the consideration of the Law Officers of the Government in the hope that some modification might be suggested. We are not aware that any steps were ever taken to fulfil that promise; we have, however, received no communication from Government on the subject and the Act remains unchanged. Since that date breaches of contract have year by year increased in number, parties receiving advances for labor feeling that they can with impunity disregard their contracts and appropriate the advances. Planters have learnt from experience that it is best to put up with the first loss, and so comparatively few warrants are ever now taken out under the Act. The difficulties experienced are considerably enhanced by the passive opposition of the Mysore authorities and by the prohibitory rates demanded for serving warrants in that Province as compared with those in Malabar. We hope that ere long a Labor Ordinance modelled after the Ceylon one will be introduced; but in the meantime some modification of the existing Act seems absolutely necessary.

2. We acknowledge with gratitude that considerable progress has, under the able management of Lieutenant-Colonel R. B. Kennedy and his Assistants, been made towards improving the roads of our district. Much, however, still remains to be done, particularly to the trace of the Periah-Manantoddy and to the opening out of the Periah-Carooth roads, for which a loan of Rupees 60,000 has been sanctioned by your Lordship's Government but is not yet available for disbursement. A considerable force of labor has been collected for the prosecution of this work, which will have to be dispersed if funds are not shortly forthcoming, in which case the district will sustain a serious injury by the works being postponed for another monsoon. But what we more particularly wish to draw your Lordship's attention to is the state of the communications beyond the Wynaad frontier in the Mysore and Coorg country, which are such as practically to isolate us from the only available grain-producing districts for several months in the year. The Mysore-Manantoddy road is unbridged and only maintained as a third-class road so far as that part of it is concerned in which we are specially interested, whilst that part of it which more immediately affects Mysore is being brought into the condition of a first-class road. Twenty miles of ill-kept, unbridged and therefore boggy, road separate us from our principal and almost only grain market, the road towards which, so far as it lies in Madras territory, is bridged and in passable condition throughout the monsoon. For the last fifteen or twenty years this piece of road has been the subject of constant complaints from Wynaad, but little, if any, attention has been paid to them by the Mysore authorities, and we now conclude that our only hope of obtaining redress on this subject is through the Madras Government. The Coorg road, which has always been recognized as an Imperial communication, has been completed, as a fine-weather road, so far as it lies in the

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Madras Presidency; but on the Coorg side of the frontier nothing beyond a bridle-track (now overgrown with jungle and impassable) has been made. We have recently learnt that the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Coorg, Public Works Department, has entirely abandoned all idea of the further prosecution of work on this road in consequence of the reductions in the Coorg Budget grants. We trust, however, that your Lordship will recognize the great importance of this road and that you will urge on the Supreme Government that an allotment from Imperial Funds be made to complete it through Coorg territory.

3. The present assessment on Government waste lands is felt to press heavily on Planters, particularly that on uncultivated and grass land. It has for some years past been apparent that considerable blocks of land are necessary for the grazing of stock on every estate, and, where no natural pasturage exists, the forest must be cleared and grass cultivated for that purpose. We therefore beg to point out the necessity that exists for some alteration of the present assessment, and we would venture to suggest that the tax on uncultivated Government waste lands in Wynaad be, in a measure, assimilated to that on cultivated lands in Assam.

4. Coffee-robbery has now assumed such proportions that increased facilities for its detection and punishment should be provided. We see in the appointment of an Assistant Superintendent of Police to Wynaad that the Government recognizes the necessity of dealing with this subject; but we would point out that under the existing laws it is very difficult to secure conviction, — to the impossibility of identifying stolen coffee. It has been found necessary in the large coffee-producing Colony of Ceylon to pass an Act for the suppression of coffee-robbery, and we think that the main provisions of that Act might be adapted with great advantage to the coffee-producing districts of this Presidency.

5. The entire absence of a Small Cause Court for Wynaad, except for suits below Rupees 50, we feel as a great hardship. Our advances for labor being in almost every case over Rupees 50 we have no ready means of recovering the money through a Civil Court in case of default. Situated as we are so close to the Mysore and Coorg frontiers celerity is all-important in suits of this nature; the delays of the Munsif's Court render it utterly unsuitable in such cases. We have recently memorialised your Lordship on this subject, and, though we have not been honored by a reply to that portion of our memorial, we venture to hope that the matter has not been lost sight of by the Government.

6. The inadequacy of the present supply of small coin has on more than one occasion been brought to the notice of the Collector of Malabar, but, so far as we can judge, without any steps having been taken to increase the supply. As employers of large numbers of laborers we find that a liberal supply of small coin is very necessary.

7. For the last three years a new disease, known by the name of the leaf disease, has been prevalent throughout Wynaad, causing, besides diminished crops, great, and possibly lasting, damage to the trees. We regard this as a most serious visitation, and we think that immediate steps should be taken to ascertain and inquire into its nature in a scientific manner with a view to the discovery of a remedy, and we would venture to suggest that, as in 1868, when Dr. Bidie was

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appointed to inquire into the ravages of the borer, a scientific man may now be deputed to investigate the leaf disease.

8. In conclusion, we have to thank your Lordship for having afforded us this opportunity of personally informing you of our most important requirements and of testifying with our Mahomedan and Hindu fellow-Planters our loyalty to our Sovereign, and wishing your Lordship a safe return to the Presidency, we now take our leave with the assurance that, had this visit been extended to Manantoddy, it would have given great pleasure and satisfaction to all classes of the important European and Native community of North Wynaad.

We have the honor to be,

Your Lordship's most obedient, humble servants,

(Signed) T. R. RICHMOND,

*Chairman of the Planters' Association
of North Wynaad.*

(") F. W. DITMAS,

*Honorary Secretary of the Planters'
Association of North Wynaad.*

No. 35. To HIS EXCEL. THE RIGHT HON. LORD HOBART,
Governor in Council of Madras

The petition of the Hindu and Mahomedan inhabitants who are Coffee Planters of North Wynaad states—

That petitioners respectfully beg that the following circumstances may be taken into consideration.

2. That, having heard that your Lordship intended to visit Wynaad for the purpose of seeing how the district was getting on, the people were looking forward to the event with delight and anxiety, when they were unfortunately informed that North Wynaad was not to be honored by a visit from your Lordship.

3. That the native inhabitants of North Wynaad have for some time turned their attention to coffee-planting, which being carried on on an extensive scale and being given out on contract, the impediments attending the system can hardly be removed by the defective provisions of Act XIII. of 1859, and that the introduction into this district of the rules obtaining in Ceylon will prove beneficial.

4. That the Kuttyadi Ghaut, which is the line of communication for articles, laborers, &c., between the plains and the Western Division of North Wynaad, where coffee plantations are thriving, not being suitable for conveyances, and the roads and bridges between Manantoddy (headquarters of Wynaad) and Coorg and Mysore being in a bad condition, the transit of grain, &c., to Wynaad, in proportion to its wants, is attended with inconveniences which result in the sufferings of the people and in a paucity of provisions; that there are no cart-roads between Periya and Carooth and between Kuttyaddy and Manantoddy, and that there is no bridge over the Manantoddy river, which also occasions inconvenience to travel-

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lers; that petitioners are given to understand that the money which the Government has set apart to assist the Local Fund Board with for the purpose of repairing these roads has not yet been given on account of the sanction of the Government of India not having been obtained; that the immediate payment of this amount and issue of orders for the execution of the works will serve to improve the condition of Wynaad and thereby secure prosperity to the people.

5. That petitioners understand that it has been decided to erect a new building for the Wynaad Deputy Collector's office at Manantoddy, which is all right as far as the situation of Wynaad and the security of the people are concerned; that there is still another defect remaining to be supplied and that is the want of a Small Cause Court having power to dispose of suits of more than 50 Rupees value, as many of the transactions and contracts of coffee traders are of a higher value than 50 Rupees; that they wish for a remedy for this defect also.

6. That the levy of a reduced rate of assessment from persons holding lands necessary for coffee cultivation or equalizing it with the rates established for some other countries will prove beneficial to those employed in coffee planting.

7. That a great majority of the native inhabitants of Wynaad are now prepared gladly to fulfil the necessity of (simply to undertake) coffee cultivation; that the difficulty they experience in getting such lands as they require for the purpose is an obstacle to their joyous undertaking; that great part of the land in certain localities of Wynaad is Government property; that the grant of these jungle lands and waste hills, either on a seigniorage or on special conditions, to applicants for lands for cultivation will facilitate the improvement of the circumstances of the people, diminish the gloominess of Wynaad, tend to prevent disease, multiply the population, and increase the wealth of the country.

8. That the coffee plants of Wynaad appear to have recently commenced to decay and the leaves fall off; that this is conjectured to be some disease in the plants and nobody here knows clearly what the cause is; that petitioners understand that there are doctors skilled in examining and detecting these causes; that, if the Government will kindly enable petitioners to discover the causes of this disease, it will be conferring a great boon upon them.

9. Petitioners pray that the facts mentioned may be taken into consideration and steps taken for effecting the necessary improvements, and they also beg to tender their thanks for the interest your Lordship takes in the welfare of the people.

Signed by ATTILAN BAPPAN
and 97 others.

10th November 1874.

(A true translation.)

(Signed) E. THOMPSON,
Malayalam Translator to Government.

No. 36. ORDER THEREON, 7th January 1875, No. 35.

SOUTH AND SOUTH-EAST WYNAAD.—In this Address the Planters ask, first, to have a second European Magistrate in the taluq; but, if that is inadmissible, that the present Divisional Officer be placed more centrally than at Manantoddy

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in the north of the taluq. Comparing North and South Wynaad, they give the following figures:—

	North.	South.
European Planters	15	102
Cultivation Acreage	5,640	17,700
Native Planters	3,428	3,794
Cultivation Acreage	5,384	5,280

They also point out that the total native population of South and South-East Wynaad far exceeds that of North Wynaad.

2. It is observed that the present superior staff of the Wynaad is distributed as follows:—

I.—At Manantoddy.

(a.) A 1st-Class Deputy Collector and Divisional Magistrate, who has also the jurisdiction of a District Munsif, *i. e.*, up to 2,500 Rupees in ordinary suits and 50 Rupees in Small Causes.

(b.) A Tahsildar and Magistrate of the taluq.

II.—At Vythery.

A Deputy Tahsildar and 3rd-Class Magistrate.

III.—At Goodaloor.

A Deputy Tahsildar and 3rd-Class Magistrate. Both the officials at Vythery and Goodaloor are the jurisdiction of a District Munsif. They have possessed this jurisdiction for some years; the statement to the contrary in the present Address is inexplicable. A Return of their work was before Government in September last: G.O. 11th of that month, No. 1685.

3. The Governor in Council is of opinion that the time has come for favorably considering the application of the Wynaad Planters for a second officer in this exceptional taluq, with powers co-ordinate with those exercised by the Deputy Collector stationed at Manantoddy, which, however, from its size, and importance as the only town in the district, must always remain as the capital. The Collector of Malabar will be called upon to state where a second Deputy Collector should be placed, and how much of the salary of the office could be met by the abolition of one of the Deputy Tahsildars and Magistrates; also where, under the new arrangement, this subordinate officer should have his headquarters. Both subordinates, it is presumed, could not be dispensed with, on the appointment of a second Deputy Collector. The lowest grade of Deputy Collector is assigned 250 Rupees a-month, but this would probably be insufficient for the Wynaad. The present officer at Manantoddy draws a special allowance of Rupees 150.

4. To this newly-appointed officer, as well as to the Deputy Collector at Manantoddy, the Governor in Council is prepared to assign the powers of a Small Cause Court up to 500 Rupees, if the Collector reports in favor of the proposal. Meanwhile the Magistrates at Vythery and Goodaloor, as well as the Tahsildar-Magistrate at Manantoddy, will be invested with the powers of a Magistrate of the 2nd Class. Mr. Macgregor will also give his opinion on the suggestion that Honorary Magistrates should be appointed by selection amongst the European Planters, or as a Bench in association with the Deputy Collector-Magistrates.

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5. The Planters from both South and North Wynaad complain of the inadequacy of Act XIII. of 1859. The Governor in Council is entirely opposed to enlarge the existing labor laws in their favor. The statement in the case cited that, as the defaulter has worked out his term of imprisonment, "the money advanced is lost," is obviously erroneous; the act does not deprive the complainant of his civil remedy (Section 2). From North Wynaad, a complaint is made of the difficulties experienced in working the Act "by the passive opposition of the Mysore authorities and by the prohibitory rates demanded for serving warrants in that Province." The Collector will invite a detailed narrative of these grievances, in view to a communication being made to the Chief Commissioner, if necessary. The alleged bad state of the roads beyond the Wynaad frontier in the Mysore and Coorg country, will be referred for Sir R. Meade's consideration.

6. It is asserted that the present land assessment is in some respects found to press heavily on the Planters. His Excellency in Council is not disposed to make any change; he observes that forest land is 2 Rupees an acre, with no assessment payable till the fourth year. Grass land is $\frac{1}{2}$ Rupee an acre, payable from date of appropriation.

7. *Coffee Robberies.*—The Planters are in error in supposing that a Coffee-stealing Ordinance has passed the Ceylon Legislature. There is a Bill with that object now before the Council at Colombo. If it passes and is found to give satisfaction, the memorialists can re-open the subject; but, as at present advised, the Governor in Council is averse to entertain the proposal for legislating in this direction.

8. *Periah Chant Loan.*—This is before the Government of India, with the recommendation of this Government.

9. *Deficiency of Small Coin.*—The Accountant-General will report.

10. *Coffee Leaf Disease.*—The Governor in Council is prepared to give the services of any competent officer to investigate the matter. The Collector will state at what season of the year the inquiry should be made, and whether he can name any one for the duty, after consulting the Planters.

11. The *NATIVE ADDRESS* is an echo of the Address last mentioned. The writers complain specially, however, of their difficulties in getting land. The Collector will report whether there is any unnecessary delay in his office in attending to applications for land.

(True Extract.)

Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Collector of Malabar, for communication to the Planters.

.. Chief Commissioner of Mysore.

.. Revenue Department.

.. Accountant-General.

Exd. A. S. Rodgers.

To the Board of Directors

8072
Paisma de fto
Bolt. of 1875

JUDICIAL.

To THE COLLECTOR OF MALABAR

to,

to,

to,

Dated January, 7th

Recd. — a — 11/2

and

G.O., 7th January 1875, No. 83.

JANUARY.

Nos. 31-36

Wynand — Orders passed on certain Addresses
Presented to His Excellency the Governor by the
Members of Wynand soliciting the appointment of
an additional European Magistrate, &c.

2467
Comm. to the
Board of Directors
W. J. J. J. J.