

(1) Number of pages 32(2) Date of repair 22.1.72

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
B.P. No.

402

Press
Mis.

Dated

30.1.1877 197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
30th January 1877.*

No. 881. Read the following letter from A. MACGREGOR, Esq., Resident in Travancore and Cochin, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Trevandrum, 13th January 1877:—

I HAVE the honor to forward copy of a letter received from the Diwan of Travancore, dated 10th January 1877, No. 97/R-28, on the subject of the Madura boundary.

2. The Diwan urges that, as a special concession, the proposal of the Board of Revenue to abandon altogether for the present season the Madura boundary settlement may be reconsidered. The Board based their opinion on the argument that owing to the delays that had occurred and the difficulty of communicating it would be impossible for Mr. Munro to get to the Madura station in time to do any work and be back to meet the Coimbatore party as arranged after Christmas.

3. This no doubt is quite correct, but on the other hand there is no reason why good work should not be done on the Madura frontier in February. The fact is that it would be a great sacrifice of preparations already made if this is not done.

4. I was with Mr. Munro for a few days on the high range in the beginning of December, and I am therefore acquainted with the position of affairs.

5. Mr. Munro started, as already reported, in such time as to admit of his reaching the tri-junction point on the 20th November, taking with him a large party of hill men and supplies.

As soon as I heard that there was a doubt of Messrs. Douglas and Stephenson attending, I sent an express which overtook Mr. Munro on the high plateau near Anymudy. He then halted there in a healthy and central position, and opened communication with Pannymerd Kutty, which lies very low considerably to the north-west of the open plateau land. He remained there ready to proceed to the point of meeting so soon as any tidings reached him of the appearance of either of the other parties, and in the mean time employed the labor collected in making paths to facilitate future operations and in exploring the country. Mr. Munro now writes from a camp at Payreat Mally on the boundary, and was expecting to be joined by Mr. Douglas next day.

6. This point is centrally situated on thirty miles of Coimbatore-Travancore boundary; much of the distance is open grass plateau, and much of it has been already explored by Mr. Munro during his two months' stay. I think his estimate that they can finish it by the end of January may therefore be accepted.

7. He proposes then to commence with Mr. Gompertz on the Madura-Travancore section adjoining.

The advantage of this is that having his camp already on the high range and the hill men collected a few miles' march across open plateau will bring him on to the Madura frontier, and no time will be lost. I have from Mr. Gompertz that he could easily meet Mr. Munro at the time and place proposed. February and March are the best months for this part of the work, the country being far above fever range and rain and mist, the only things to fear being rare in March and April.

8. I strongly support the Diwan's request in this case, as it is the only method by which the Travancore Government can be relieved for the heavy expense they have gone to in retaining Mr. Munro's services specially and replacing him in the Cardamom Department by another European officer, besides being otherwise an arrangement calculated to expedite the settlement.

9. The present season is moreover favorable for the work, as owing to the famine Tamil labor is easily procurable from the Cumbum Valley, and of course all money spent in this way does good.

As to how far south the operations shall extend that may be considered hereafter. I should hesitate to allow the lower ranges to be visited so late as March. If, however, the work extended only to the furthest point of the high plateau south-west of the Palneys, up to which point there is no river, a great advantage would be secured.

10. In conclusion I venture to suggest that the officers named for the duty might correspond direct with me, so that the Travancore and Cochin Governments may have the earliest warning of any difficulties occurring.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From A. SASHIA SASTRI, Diwan, to A. MACGREGOR, Esq., British Resident in Travancore and Cochin, dated Trevindrum, 10th January 1877, No. 97/R-28.

With reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated the 8th ultimo, a copy of which was forwarded to me with your memorandum, No. 819, dated 12th idem, I have the honor to enclose extract from a letter I have just received from Mr. Munro, No. 13, dated 31st ultimo.

2. Under the circumstances therein stated, and considering that Mr. Munro, the only officer of this Government who has a thorough knowledge of this locality, retires from the service in April next, His Highness' Government would be specially obliged if Government will be pleased to reconsider their decision and direct that the boundary between Travancore and Madurai be proceeded with in the present season instead of being put off for the season of 1877-78, when the services of Mr. Munro will not be available for this State.

Extract from Mr. Munro's letter, No. B, dated Payreat Mally, 31st December 1876.

"I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favor, No. 5652/R-1962, of the 25th instant, with enclosure.

"I note that the demarcation of the Cochin-Travancore boundary is to be done after the Christmas holidays, and that it is the opinion of the Board of Revenue that the Madurai-Travancore boundary should be postponed this season. I have since my arrival here opened a line on the water-shed to the westward for a distance of 12 miles, and on Mr. Douglas' arrival hope with ease to complete the whole distance of the Travancore-Coimbatore boundary, about 30 miles, by the end of January; and if the Madurai-Travancore demarcation can, on reconsideration by the Board, be taken up subsequently, I shall be prepared to meet Mr. Gompertz on February 1st; and as so much of that line is opened and only require approval, viz., from the Pudatha Shola to the top of the Goodaloor Ghaut, or about 50 miles, I am sanguine of opening up and demarcating the line from the N.E. point touching Unjenand to the top of the Goodaloor Ghaut (about 70 miles) by the middle of March.

"So many of my arrangements for labor and provisions have been perfected by my stay here, and so much knowledge gained of the country, that I feel sure of making rapid progress if the Madurai-Travancore demarcation is undertaken, and I shall regret much having to give up the work without doing so."

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

A. SASHIA SASTRI,

Diwan.

No. 882.

ORDER THEREON, 30th January 1877, No. 402.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government will not object to reconsider their decision to postpone the Madurai and Travancore boundary to another season. Mr. Munro, on the part of Travancore, should communicate with Mr. Douglas of the Forest Department in respect of the Coimbatore frontier, and with Mr. Gompertz of the Survey Department in respect of the Madurai frontier; those officers being at the same time directed to meet Mr. Munro when and where he may indicate.

2. It appears advisable that the Resident should exercise a general control as to details; of course without authority to determine any boundary disputes.

3. A telegraph will be sent to the Resident; the Board will communicate similarly with the other officers concerned.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

„ the Resident in Travancore.

„ the Superintendent of Revenue Survey.

„ the Conservator of Forests.

Exd. A. F. Goodall.

Read letter from Pnt L Rest
at Travancore. d/13-1-77.

The Govt will not object to reconsider
their decision to postpone the
Madura & Travancore boundary
to another season. Mr Munro,
on the part of Travancore, sh^d
communicate with Mr. Douglas
of the Forest dept. in respect of the
Coomatore frontier, & with Mr.
Comptrolr of the Survey dept. in
respect of the Madura frontier;
these officers being at the same
time directed to meet Mr. Munro
when & where he may indicate.

2. It appears advisable that the
President sh^d exercise a general
control as to details; of course
without authority to determine
any boundary disputes.

3. A telegraph will be sent to the President
the Govt will communicate with the
other officers concerned. 29/1/77

30 January 1877.

To Vtd. of C.

To Rest Travancore similarly with the

To Supt Survey

To Conservator of Forests.

In Reply to Vtd. 80

- 13 H^d of Rev. Dec 20-277
- 3 Res^d of Travancore & Madras
- 12 Supt. Rev. Survey
- 20 Conserv. of Forests

Govt. of (1877) 20/1/77.
REVENUE.
THE BOARD OF REVENUE.
d/13-1-77.
JANUARY.
Nos. 881-882.
Pending between Travancore and Madura -
Resolving to reconsider the decision to postpone to
another season the -; desiring Mr. Munro, on the
part of Travancore, to communicate with Mr.

The Govt agree to
this being some
very acceptable

up the work without doing so."

(True extract)

(Signed) A. Sachia Sastri

Dewan.

(True copy)

A. Maipuri
Resident.

Dec: 9/11/77.

From Madras

Sr

Residents Office,

Trevandrum, 13 January 1877.

From

A. MacGregor Esquire

Resident in Travancore & Cochin

To

The Chief Secretary to Government

Fort St. George.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward copy of a letter received from the Dewan of Travancore dated 10 January 1877 No 97/28 on the subject of the Madura boundary.

The Dewan urges that as a special concession the proposal of the Board of Revenue to abandon altogether for the present season the Madura boundary settlement may be reconsidered. The Board based their opinion on the argument that owing to the delays that had occurred and the difficulty of communicating it would be impossible for Mr Munro to get to the Madura Station in time to do any work and be back to meet the Coimbatore party as arranged after Christmas.

This no doubt is quite correct, but on the other hand there is no reason

they have gone to in retaining Mr. Munro's services specially and replacing him in the Cardamom Department by another European officer besides being otherwise an arrangement calculated to expedite the settlement.

The present season is moreover favorable for the work as owing to the famine Tamil labor is easily procurable from the Lumbum Valley and of course all money spent in this way does good.

As to how far South the operations shall extend that may be considered hereafter.

I should hesitate to allow the lower ranges to be visited so late as March. If however the work extended only to the furthest point of the High Plateau South West of the Pulneys up to which point there is no fever a great advantage would be secured.

In conclusion I venture to suggest that the officers named for the duty might correspond direct with me so that the Travancore and Cochin Governments may have the earliest warning of any difficulties occurring.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

A. Munro

Resident.

Travancore

Jan. 15.

My dear Madras.

I hope you will sanction the proposals in this letter. The fact is that Munro is going home for good in April. He is the only man that knows anything about the High ranges, & the Mundavars, the Hill men of the High range, will not have anything to do with any other European. The country is a difficult one to work in without their assistance, as they alone know the

we are glad to hear

before
elited

up to Master.

same path through the dense
woods which would otherwise
take days to cross. & through lines
of precipices which would otherwise
have to be got round at an
enormous expense of time & labour.

The proposal amounts simply
to this that Mr. Somers be ordered
to meet Mr. Munro early in February
to go over the western boundary
of the Pulneys. I do not advise
their being authorized to carry
the work further south than the
high healthy ground which terminates

the South West corner of the Pulneys.

The country here suddenly drops 2000
feet. & the ground southward which
may be described as the western
boundary of the Cumbum valley
is feverish in March & April,
even in February might be
feverish in such a dry year as
this - When we were up on these
high ranges we found that, contrary
to former experience, the coolies
readily came to work &
in fact were so hard up that they
were up to glad of a chance

... better through the dense

Earning a good day's pay. The distances are so long the country so wild that elaborate arrangements were necessary in the way of depots of supplies not only with the camp but at intermediate points so as to feed coolies going & coming with supplies - Owing to the darkness here I could only remain a few days with Mr. Munro on the high range but fortunately there were one or two clear days & I was able to see all the chief points of the country.

2

I had in former years been nearly up to the boundary, both from Michael's valley & from the Pulley so that I now know the general features of the country.

The great difficulty in these boundary settlement arises from the delay that occurs in communication between the parties owing to an officer corresponding through a distant superior. Thus Douglas writes to the Board through the Inspector of Forests. So he cannot

be at the appointed spot in November
this is not known to us after
Munro has started. Then it is
arranged that Gumpert is available
to meet Munro & all dispositions
are made accordingly when it
subsequently comes out that the Bo
have forgotten to send me a copy
of their proceedings. That a long
discussion is almost concluded
the object of which is to upset the
arrangement. Had I known
at the time that Douglas could

TRAFFIC CODE FORM CI.
INDIAN TELEGRAPH.
Local No. 5693
FROM
So that Gumpert was available
for the Madras sec. I could with
ease have arranged for the whole
season being utilized, the
Southern & feverish portions winter
in December & January, the healthy
months. February, March & April
could then have been devoted to
the high range. What is wanted
is some authority near the spot
to set things right when a
kitch occurs.

If some sort of general control
were given to me I think I

could save time & expense: a
good deal of friction -

If you would kindly let me
know by Telegram what Govt decides
in regard to the Dewan's application

I should be much obliged.

Believe me
Yours sincerely
A. M. S. S. S.

Residents

TRAFFIC CODE FORM 01.				INDIAN TELEGRAPH.		Local No.
To (Station)		FROM (Station)		5693		
MADRAS		Suramur				
No.	Words.	Time tendered for transmission. (Mach. and line.)		OFFICIAL INSTRUCTIONS.		
26	19/1/77	32				
To Person		FROM (Person)				
MADRAS		Resident				
Your telegram dated 17th does not affect my work on frontier to be performed after Travancore and Coimbatore completed						
RECD. FROM		(L. L.)		SENT TO (L. L.)		
At H. M., on the				At H. M., on the		
By MADRAS 19-1-77				By [Signature]		
Date				Telegraph Master.		

(P. 1) - Govt. Tel. Press, No. 333, - 20-11-73, - 100,000.