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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
3rd June 1876.*

No. 54. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 3rd May 1876, No. 1,167:—

Read the following letter from Colonel F. J. B. PRIESTLEY, Superintendent of Revenue Survey, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chepauk, 6th April 1876, No. 1,057-42.

I HAVE the honor to submit a report on the boundary between the Coimbatore and Nilgiri Districts from the Malabar tri-junction on the Kunda or Manaar river to Kullar at the foot of the Coonoor Ghaut.

2. An illustrative sketch is also submitted.

3. The boundary line shown in the sketch was fixed in communication with the Collector of Coimbatore and the Commissioner of the Nilgiris, and the Deputy Superintendent, No. 1 Revenue Survey, considers that the proposed line will be the most convenient boundary.

4. I therefore request that the Board of Revenue will be pleased to recommend its adoption.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

Report on the Boundary between the Coimbatore and Nilgiri Districts from the Malabar tri-junction on the Kunda or Manaar River to Kullar at the foot of the Coonoor Ghaut.

1. Up to the year 1868, the Nilgiris formed a taluq of the Coimbatore District; the question of the boundary of the Nilgiris on this side does not appear to have engaged attention before that date.

2. In 1871, it was reported that the chief Revenue officers of the two districts had arranged to settle the boundary the following year, but this was not done.

3. In April 1871, the Commissioner of the Nilgiris, in reply to an application for information, stated that a notification in the Gazette of the 7th August settled the district boundary.

In this notification, the limits of the jurisdiction of the Ootacamund Judge's Court are given as below:—

“ From Vadooga Malai Dimbum, a little north of Seondapatti

to Tomary village in the Paranganad and striking the base of the Coonoor pass will take the direction of Bakasoora Malai and thence to Vadooga Malai Dimbum.”

4. It would be difficult to mark a line in accordance with this description. As far as I have been able to ascertain there is no point known as “ Vadooga Malai Dimbum ” which means the “ crest of the northern mountains.”

5. The above is the only description of the boundary I have been able to obtain, and on the old ordnance sheet maps no dividing line is shown between the districts.

6. Two Coimbatore villages border the line, Sundapatti for three-fourths of its length and Nellithorai along the rest. The villagers claim the crest of the Hills as their boundary.

7. The old village accounts are not very clear here; those who prepared them had no doubt never been over this part of the village, but in each village one pynash number is entered, which would seem to embrace the jungle at the foot and the whole slopes of the Hills up to the crest; no measurements are given for these numbers, but by the description of their limits each of these twenty-one numbers appear to embrace many square miles.

8. In communication with the Collector of Coimbatore and the Commissioner of the Nilgiris, the boundary line shown in the accompanying plan has been demarcated and surveyed, and this gives to the Coimbatore villagers waste amply sufficient for grazing purposes; it includes the lower spurs in Coimbatore; any line higher up and across the slopes would have been almost

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
3rd June 1876.

impossible to survey, and the crest line would have thrown out of the Hills a great number of coffee estates now on the Nilgiris.

9. Regarding occupation and cultivation on the slopes; the cultivation and hamlets on the lowest slopes near the foot of the Hills are in the hands of Irulars; and the present demarcation leaves them where they were; in the Coimbatore District. The uppermost portion of the slopes again are where cultivated under coffee and have for the most part been obtained by planters under the Waste Land Rules on the Nilgiri District.

10. The centre slopes alone seem to have been all along a debatable land.

We find here some portions held on the Nilgiris under the Waste Land Rules, others purchased by planters from Kurumbers and paying assessment in Coimbatore, and others still in possession of Kurumbers.

In one case a gentleman holds the lower portion of his estate under the Waste Land Rules on the Nilgiris, while he is paying assessment in Coimbatore for the upper portions, puttas for that portion formerly held by Kurumbers having been transferred to him.

11. The Kurumber cultivation on these slopes is "Kumari"; a small clearing is made and a settlement of a few huts; and every few years the cultivation and hamlet shift.

12. During the last year or two, owing to the rise in price of coffee, the greater number of the Kurumber puttas have been purchased by Hill planters; and at present out of 720 acres of putta land on these slopes nearly 600 acres are in possession of Hill planters.

13. The above are the areas as entered in village accounts; but they have been guessed at and the true areas are probably far greater.

14. Almost the whole of the culturable portion of these centre slopes have now been taken up; the rest is for the most part very rocky and precipitous.

15. Another reason for including the slopes above the line now demarcated is the Nilgiris, the difficulty of access from below; they are much more easily visited from Coonoor, than from Mettapolliem.

16. The planters too who hold the greater portion (indeed nearly the whole) of the cultivation on the slopes reside on the Hills, and would much prefer paying their assessment into one treasury instead of two, and having to deal with only one set of Revenue officers.

17. If the proposed boundary be approved of, the assessment to be in future paid for the putta lands will have to be decided.

18. In marking this district boundary, occupation could not in any case have been strictly followed, for, as already stated, the lands held on the Nilgiris and in Coimbatore are here intermingled: and in one instance at least the Nilgiri land is situated below the Coimbatore putta.

19. In every respect, I think the line proposed will be the most convenient boundary, and I beg to recommend its adoption.

COIMBATORE,
18th March 1876.

(Signed) J. G. CLOETE, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Deputy Supt., No. 1 Rev. Survey.

(True Copy.)

CHEPAUK,
6th April 1876.

(Signed) F. J. B. PRIESTLEY, Colonel,
Superintendent of Rev. Survey.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.—Map.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. It appears from the Deputy Superintendent's letter that the boundary line between the Nilgiris and district of Coimbatore from the Malabar tri-junction to the foot of the Coonoor Ghaut has been settled in communication with the Revenue Officers, and demarcated and surveyed as shown in the accompanying

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
3rd June 1876.

plan. The Board have already noticed the fact that some correspondence regarding the settlement of the boundary between the two districts took place about the year 1872, and have inquired what decision was arrived at—*vide* Proceedings, dated 24th April 1876, No. 1,076. It now appears that the boundary already demarcated and surveyed has been approved by the Revenue and Survey authorities; and, as it seems on many accounts the most eligible, the Board recommend its adoption.

3. If Government approve the line, the difficulty hitherto experienced in determining to which of the two districts the cultivation on the slopes appertains will be at an end. But inquiry should be made in each district as to the extent and tenure of the lands on the slopes said to have been taken up by planters from the Irulars and Kurumbers and report made in order that the future conditions of their tenure may be decided. The Board believe that the Irulars and Kurumbers hold roving puttas subject to an express stipulation that the land is not to be disposed of, *vide* Board's Proceedings, dated 4th June 1872, No. 898, in which case the alienations made are not binding on Government.

4. It is presumed that the remaining portion of the line, the survey and demarcation of which is now in progress, has been settled in communication with the Revenue authorities.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Secretary.

No. 55.

ORDER THEREON, 3rd June 1876, No. 752.

Miscellaneous.

BEFORE passing orders on these Proceedings the Government resolve to refer them to the Collector of Malabar

for report as to whether so far as that district is concerned, the proposals made are unobjectionable.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
" the Superintendent of Revenue Survey.
" the Collectors of Malabar and Coimbatore.

Exd. W. J. Lewis.

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Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
Dated 3rd May 1876
M 467
Read the following:

No. 1057
42

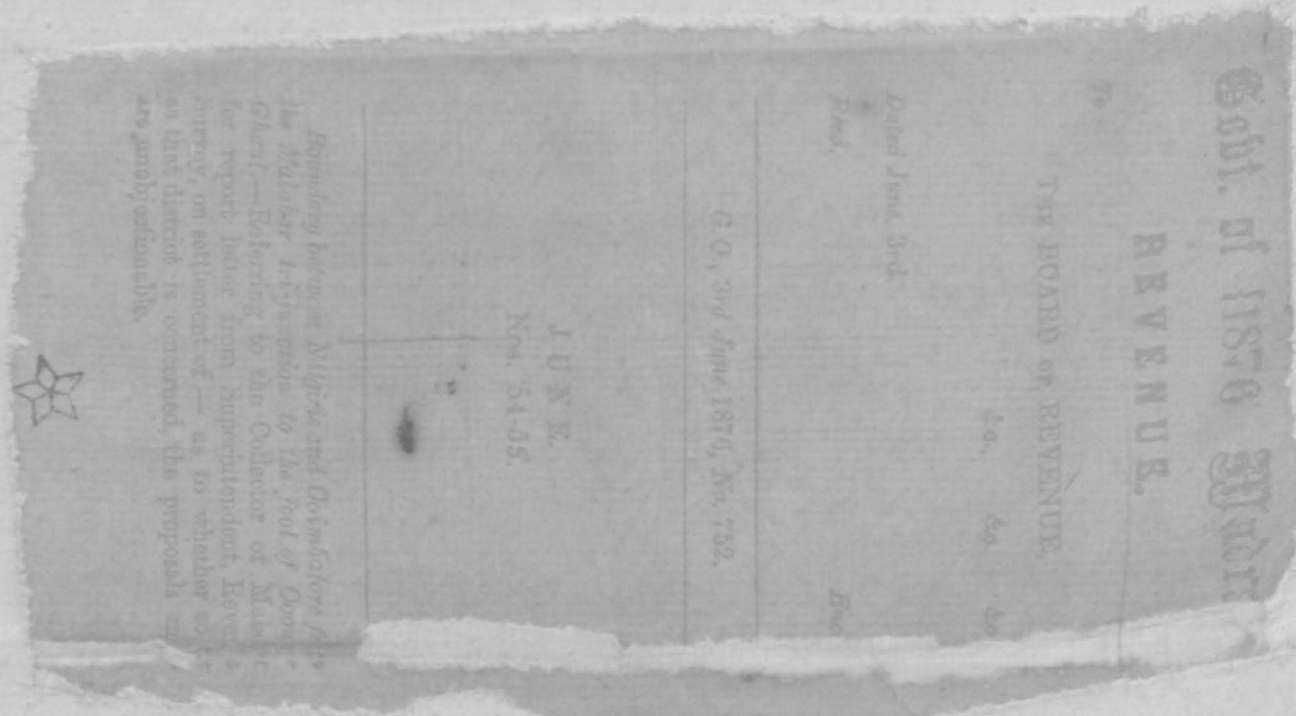
From The Superintendent
Revenue Survey

To The Secretary to the
Board of Revenue

Sir
I have the honor to submit
a report on the boundary
between the Coimbatore and
Nilgiri Districts from the
Malabar trijunction on the
Kunida or Mauniar river to
Kullar at the foot of the
Coonoor ghat.

2. An illustrative sketch is
also submitted.

3. The boundary line shown
in



in the sketch was fixed in
communication with the
Collector of Coimbatore and
the Commissioner of the
Nilgiris and the Deputy
Superintendent N. 1 Revenue
Survey considers that the pro-
posed line will be the most
convenient boundary.

4. I therefore request that
the Board of Revenue will
be pleased to recommend
its adoption.

Shane &c.

Revenue Survey Office
Chepauk
6th April 1876
Supt. J. Priestley Esq
Superintendent
Revenue Survey

Report on the boundary
between the Coimbatore and
Nilgiri Districts from the
Malabar tri-junction on the
Kunda or Manaar river
to Kullar at the foot of the
Coonaar ghat.

Up to the year 1868, the
Nilgiris

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Nilgiris formed a Taluk
of the Coimbatore District,
the question of the boundary
of the Nilgiris on this side
does not appear to have
engaged attention before
that date.

2. In 1871 it was reported
that the Chief Revenue
Officers of the two Districts
had arranged to settle
the boundary the following
year, but this was not
done.

3. In April 1871 the Com-
missioner of the Nilgiris
in reply to our application
for information stated
that a notification in the
Gazette of the 7th August
settled the District Boundary.

In this notification the
limits of the jurisdiction of

in of the Botacamund judges
Court are given as below.
b. "Snow Vadooga Malai
the Simbun, a little north
of Sundapatti

* * * * *
to Tourary village in the
Parangamad and striking
at the base of the Coonoor pass
It will take the direction of
the Bakasara Malai and
thence to Vadooga Malai
Simbun."

4. It would be difficult
to mark a line in accor-
dance with this description,
as far as I have been able
to ascertain there is no
point known as "Vadooga
Malai Simbun" which
means the "Crest of the
northern Mountains."

5. The above is the only
description

45/6
description of the bound-
ary I have been able to
obtain and on the old
ordnance sheet. Maps
no dividing line is shown
between the Districts.

6. Two Coimbatore
Villagers border the line.
Sundapatti for $\frac{3}{4}$ of its
length and Kallithorai
along the rest. The villa-
gers claim the Crest of
the Hills as their boundary.

7. The old village ac-
counts are not very clear
here, those who prepared
them had, no doubt, never
been over this part of the
village, but in each village
one Paimash No. is entered
which would seem to in-
crease the jungle at the
foot

in foot and the whole slopes
of the Hills up to the
Crest; no measurements
are given for these num-
bers, but by the de-
scription of their limits
each of these 21 numbers
appear to embrace many
square miles.

8. In communication
with the Collector of
Coimbatore and the
Commissioner of the
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companying plan has
been demarcated and
surveyed and this gives
to the Coimbatore villages
waste amply sufficient
for grazing purposes,
it

it includes the ¹⁵⁷lowest spurs
in Coimbatore any line
higher up and across the
slopes would have been
almost impossible
to survey, and the crest
line would have thrown
out of the Hills a great
number of Coffee estates
now on the Nilgiris.

9. Regarding occupation
and cultivation on
the slopes; the cultivation
and hamlets on the
lowest slopes near the
foot of the Hills are
in the hands of Indians
and the present demar-
cation leaves them where
they were, in the Coimbatore
District. The uppermost
portion

a portion of the slopes again
are where cultivated under
Coffee and have for the
most part been obtained
by planters under the
Waste Land rules in the
Nilgiri District.

10. The centre slopes alone
seem to have been all
along a debatable land.

We find here some
portions held on the
Nilgiris under the Waste
Land rules others pur-
chased by Planters from
Kurumbers and paying
assessment in Coimbatore
and others still in pos-
session of Kurumbers.

In one case a gentleman
holds the lower portions
of his estate under the
Waste

Waste Land rules on the
Nilgiris while he is paying
assessment in Coimbatore
for the upper por-
tions. Puttaks for that
portion formerly held by
Kurumbers having been
transferred to him.

11. The Kurumber culti-
vation on these slopes
is "Kurnari", a small
clearing is made and a
settlement of a few huts,
and every few years the
cultivation and hamlet
shift.

12. During the last year
or two, owing to the rise
in price of Coffee, the
greater number of the
Kurumber Puttaks have
been purchased by Hill
Planters; and at present
out

out of 720 acres of Puttalo
land on these slopes nearly
600 acres are in possession
of Hill Planters.

13. The above are the areas
as entered in village ac-
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been guessed at and
the true areas are pro-
bably far greater.

14. Almost the whole of
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now been taken up, the
rest is for the most part
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tous.

15. Another reason for
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are much more easily
visited from Coonoor
than from Metapoliem.

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Hills and would much
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assessment into one
Treasury instead of
two, and having to
deal with only one set
of Revenue officers.

17. If the ^{pro}posed bound-
ary be approved of, the
assessment to be in future
paid for the Puttalo lands
will have to be decided.

18. In Marking this District
Boundary

Boundary, occupation could not in any case have been strictly followed, for as already stated the lands held on the Nilgiris and in Coimbatore are here intermingled, and in one instance at least the Nilgiri land is situated below the Coimbatore Putta.

19. In every respect, I think the line proposed will be the most convenient boundary and I beg to recommend its adoption.

Revenue Survey Office
Coimbatore }
18th March 1876 }
By Superintd
No. 1 Revenue
True Copy

Rev. Survey Office }
Chepauk }
6 April 1876 }
By Superintd
Rev. Survey

Submitted for the orders
of

of Government. 75/2

2. It appears from the Deputy Superintendent's letter that the boundary line between the Nilgiris and District of Coimbatore from the Malabar trijunction to the foot of the Coonoor ghaut has been settled in communication with the Revenue officers, and demarcated and surveyed as shown in the accompanying plan. The Board have already noticed the fact that some correspondence regarding the settlement of the boundary between the two districts took place about the year 1842, and have enquired what decision was arrived at, vide Proceedings 26 April 1876 & 10/76.

Lt

It now appears that the boundary already demarcated and surveyed has been approved by the Revenue and Survey authorities and as it seems on many accounts the most eligible, the Board recommend its adoption.

3. If Government approve the line, the difficulty hitherto experienced in determining to which of the two Districts the cultivation on the slopes appertains will be at an end. But enquiry should be made in each District as to the extent and tenure of the lands on the slopes said to have been taken up by planters from the Sultans and Kurumbars and report made in order that

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that the future conditions of their tenure may be decided. The Board believe that the Sultans and Kurumbars hold roving Pattaks subject to an express stipulation that the land is not to be disposed of, vide Board's Proceedings dated 4th June 1872, No 898, in which case the alienations made are not binding on Government.

4. It is presumed that the remaining portion of the line the survey and demarcation of which is now in progress has been settled in communication with the Revenue authorities.

(True Copies & Extracts)

Col. J. H. Secretary

To The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department
with a Map to be returned
& Copy of Board's Res. of 4th June 1872
No 898.

C. J. H. Secretary
C. J. H. Secretary

Before passing on these Proceedings
 his fort resolve to refer them to his Col^l
 general for report: as to whether so
 far as his District is concerned, the
 proposals made are unobjectionable.

3 June 1896

14th 1896
 Revenue Dept
 Proceedings of the
 Board of Revenue

Noted 3rd May 1896

Left 3rd May
 Board of Revenue
 Civil & Criminal
 District of Madras

Chgoa. 2 June 1896

With order

Secretary - Revenue

Religious & Public Works

Public Works & Public Works

Public Works & Public Works

Public Works & Public Works

Public Works & Public Works

Public Works & Public Works

Public Works & Public Works

Public Works & Public Works

Public Works & Public Works

Public Works & Public Works

Considered

The proposed boundary line is approved.
 The Government accept the report
 dated 3rd May 1896 the
 Board of Revenue -

R.C. & Co. 12 May 1896
 C. 9: 1896/96 R. 11: 1896