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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	103	Press.
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297 ✓

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

21st December, No. 2587.

Coffee Stealing Prevention Act.

Read the following papers:—

No. 147. From W. LOGAN, Esq., Co. of Malabar, to the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, dated Vytteri, 26.ember 1878, No. 119-B.

With reference to G.O., Judicial Department, No. 2288, of the 12th instant, I have the honor to state that I quite agree with the Vytteri Planters' Association as to the necessity of extending the Coffee Stealing Prevention Act beyond the boundaries of Wynad.

2. The coffee-producing districts, which send their produce for shipment at the ports of my district, are:—

- I. Coorg via Perambadi Ghat to Cannanore and Tellicherry by roads passing through the Taluks of Cherakal and Kotayam.
- II. North Wynad via Periah and Kuttiadi Ghats to Tellicherry, Badagara, and Calicut by roads and water communications passing through the Taluks of Kotayam, Kurambranad, and Calicut.
- III. South Wynad via Tamhercherry Ghat to Calicut by roads passing through the Taluks of Calicut and Kurambranad.
- IV. South-East Wynad and Nilgiris via Karkur Ghat to Beypore and Calicut by roads and water communications passing through the Taluks of Ernad and Calicut.
- V. Wallaghat via Sissapara Ghat to Calicut by roads and water communications passing through the Taluks of Ernad and Calicut.
- VI. Nelliampatti Hills via Nemarry Ghat to Palghat and thence by rail to Beypore, &c.

3. The only taluks of this district through which, so far as I am aware, coffee does not pass by carts to the coast ports for shipment are Valuvanad, Ponani, and Cochin. At Cochin there is a considerable exportation of coffee grown chiefly, I believe, on the Travancore Hills and brought to Cochin by boat; but the taluk is very small and no complaints of receiving stolen coffee have been received, so I think it may be left out of account.

4. Wherever coffee is conveyed for any considerable distance by cart or by boat, or by bullocks, there exists necessity for bringing the Act into force. The distances are so great that the carts, boats or bullocks cannot reach their destinations in one day. They are obliged to halt for the night at various places, and at these halting places the men who "sweat" the coffee drive a thriving trade. Ostensibly they are only dealers in salt, salt-fish, tobacco, and so forth, but in reality they are all receivers. Their modes of operation are various and difficult to detect, but the result is always the same in levying (for a consideration to the carriers) a small contribution in coffee from each cart, boat or string of bullocks. The "sweating" trade is almost entirely in the hands of Moplahs, who resort to various expedients to induce the carriers to halt for the night near their bazaars.

5. Again, in the coast ports, there are a number of dealers who are not sufficiently particular in ascertaining whence coffee, which is brought to them for sale, has been obtained. A notorious instance of this came to light last season at Calicut, but we were powerless to punish the offender under the law at present in force.

6. Sections 5 to 8 and 10 of the Act give a tolerably effective means of dealing with the "sweaters" and the receivers, and I strongly advise that the Act should be put in force in the low country taluks through which the coffee passes to the port of shipment. I have reason to believe that all the *bond fide* merchants would hail such extension of the Act with satisfaction as encouraging legitimate business.

7. If this view is adopted the Act should certainly be extended to the taluks of—

Kotayam,
Kurambranad, and
Calicut.

The North and South Wynad Planters have been the chief sufferers from such mal-practices.

8. It is very possible the South-East Wynad, Nilgiri, and Nelliampatti Planters may also wish their interests to be protected in the Ernad and Palghat Taluks. On that point I have no information.

9. As regards Wallaghat, the traffic is at present so inconsiderable that it hardly needs special protection. Nor does it seem necessary to protect the small traffic between Coorg and Cannanore.

10. I recommend, therefore, that the Act should immediately take effect in the—

Kotayam,
Kurambranad, and
Calicut Taluks.

No. 148. *From W. LOGAN, Esq., Collector of Malabar, to the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, dated Vytteri, 4th December 1878, No. 124.*

In reply to your endorsement, No. 2177, of the 26th ultimo, on copy of letter from the merchants of Calicut, I have the honor to inform you that I have nothing to add to my letter, No. 119-B, dated 26th ultimo, already sent to Government.

No. 149. ORDER THEREON, 21st December 1878, No. 2587.

The Government in G.O., 12th November 1878, No. 2288, observed that they were prepared to extend the Coffee Stealing Prevention Act wherever special facilities existed for tampering with coffee to the injury of owners and beyond their power of protection: in other words, to protect this produce in localities affording special facilities for tampering with the article in transit, as, for example, by substituting inferior for superior coffee in coffee-growing tracts. But what the Collector of Malabar describes is ordinary theft which might similarly occur in regard to any goods on the road, and for which the ordinary law and the precautions to be taken by the owners themselves must and should suffice.

2. The Government do not see any ground therefore for extending the Act in the manner proposed.

(True Extract.)

G. Logan
Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Collector of Malabar.

" Honorary Secretary, Wynad Planters' Association.

" Revenue Department.

Erd. T. O'Connor.

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No 103

Communicated to the Board
of Revenue.

Mr. Mowat.

Recd of Rev. with copy of J. & L. Co.
12 Nov. 1878 No 2288 dated 11 Jan 1879.

CCO

No 103. 11 January 1879

W. D. Clark

Cable Station, Port of A. A. — The U. S. Secretary of the Treasury has informed that there is no possibility of effecting this debt to the United States by the U. S.

RECEIVED
NOV. 14 1878

CO. 212, 1878, No. 103.

Post Treasury, N.Y.

Post 1871

Post 8 Jan.

To

THE COLLECTOR OF REVENUE,
N.Y.

JUDICIAL.

Recd: 24/1/79
Procl. of 1878/79 No 103
Cable. of 1878/79 No 103

No. 103