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(3) Initials of the Referencer

CONCERNS BOTH BRITISH INDIA AND INDIAN STATES.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1313 Press ~~Mis.~~

125-126

Dated 7. 10. 1880.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

A

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

7th October 1880, No. 1,313.

READ THE FOLLOWING PAPER:—

No. 125. From A. MACGREGOR, Esq., British Resident in Travancore and Cochin, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Ootacamund, 23rd September 1880.

IN my letter of 20th November 1879, printed with G.O., 6th January 1880, No. 18, I informed you that the Travancore Government desired to re-examine the eastern boundary of the Cardamom Hills from Kurungolum to Kotay (the Madura, Tinnevelly, and Travancore Tri-junction point) before definitely accepting the water-shed line as laid down by the joint Commission. I have now the honor to forward a letter from the Dewan on the subject enclosing the report of Mr. Bensley, Superintendent of the Cardamom Hills.

The locality is a very feverish one, and the Superintendent had to postpone his visit till after the gathering in of the cardamom crop, which thus brought him to a most unhealthy time of the year, and the consequence was that he was utterly prostrated by fever just as he completed his inspection. Hence the matter has been somewhat delayed.

The report sets forth very clearly the objections to the water-shed in some four or five special instances both as affording facilities to the Madura inhabitants for committing frauds on the cardamom revenue, and also as interfering with the due watch and ward of the Travancore frontier as maintained by means of fixed posts from time immemorial, as well as by temporary outposts during crop season. The actual value of territory involved is almost inappreciable, but the interests likely to be sacrificed to Travancore, should the rights hitherto exercised be hereafter barred, are very considerable.

The points where the Travancore Government apprehend difficulty, if the boundary is kept strictly to the water-shed, are as follow:—

1. *Mettoo Stations at*—
   - (*a*) Puthenettampuddy.
   - (*b*) Tavaram.
   - (*c*) Chellacoil.
   - (*d*) Maythakaram.

Of these (*a*) might be removed without very great disadvantage. Still an expensive trench (especially if rock is met with) will have to be made and maintained against elephants, and no other site will be equally favorable for commanding the pass; and (*d*) may be moved without detriment, and having been lately placed east of the water-shed ought to be removed.

The stations at (*b*) and (*c*) cannot be moved without great inconvenience.

2. *Cardamom Gardens*—
   - (*a*) Between Cuthera punja and Mankootly claimed by Tavaram Poligar.
   - (*b*) Between Koty Mulla and Choolla Para claimed by Combay Poligar.
3. *The Basin of the Shuranganar.*—A tongue of land four miles long and ten square miles in area inaccessible from Madura except through Travancore and hitherto used as a grazing station where fees are collected by the Travancore officials.
4. *Sites of temporary watch stations used during crop season.*—These seem scarcely worth considering as the question of territory is not concerned.

In regard to the Mettoo stations, to render them effectual it is necessary that sovereign rights should be exercised as to seizure and detention of parties and goods, and therefore that even if included within the British frontier line they should be excluded from the jurisdiction of the British Courts, Civil and Criminal. As regards the cardamom gardens, it is necessary to prevent them from becoming foci of smuggling that the Travancore cardamom system should be enforced, viz., that the cultivator should hand over his crop to the Superintendent as soon as picked receiving a fixed share commuted into money at the selling price of the year. The system essential to protect the *bonâ fide* cultivator of cardamoms, and is not inconsistent with any right that the Zemindar might establish as the cultivator of the garden. In regard to No. 3, the basin of the Shuranganar, difficulty would be experienced if it were to be treated as an integral part of Madura. It can be reached only by passing the Travancore Custom-house at the head of the Gúdalúr Ghât and then traversing the tract assigned to Travancore in Mr. Hannyngton's arbitration.

If these reservations could be allowed, the views of Travancore would be fully met. The line already marked could be mapped as the boundary, and the reservations defined after preparation of detailed survey.

ENCLOSURE No. I.

From N. NANOO PILLAY, Esq., Dewan, to A. MACGREGOR, Esq., British Resident of Travancore and Cochin, dated Trivandrum, 1st September 1880, No. 4,549—R-1,506.

I HAVE the honor to forward herewith copy of Mr. Bensley's report on the boundary line between Kurungolum Peak and Kotay.

2. It will be noted therefrom how important it is to this State that some of the Mettoo stations and other land thrown out by the water-shed line should remain in the possession of Travancore for the efficient protection of our cardamom revenue, which forms so important a factor in the resources of this State. The two little cardamom gardens thrown out of the line, though of little value, are of as great, or even greater, importance than the Mettoo stations, especially the garden claimed by the Zemindar of Thavarom. These gardens are foci for smuggling, the growth of our hills being easily transported there, and thenceforward claimed as the produce of those gardens, the thieves themselves finding a safe asylum.

3. May I therefore request you will be good enough to move the Madras Government that all the places noted in paragraphs 16 to 30 of Mr. Bensley's report may be allowed to remain with Travancore, excluding, if desired, the site of the Maythakarum Mettoo, the possession of which by Travancore is apparently recent.

4. I beg to invite your attention to the circumstance that though the water-shed line was generally to be laid down as being the natural boundary, we have reserved our rights in places beyond the line, where possession has long been with Travancore, and where we have exercised rights of ownership.

5. I beg also to draw attention to the concluding paragraph of the report, and to request that the right to locate watch stations in British territory during crop time may be conceded.

ENCLOSURE No. II.

From O. H. BENSLEY, Esq., Superintendent and Magistrate of the Cardamom Hills, to N. NANOO PILLAY, Esq., Dewan of Travancore, dated Kóttayam, 12th June 1880.

I HAVE the honor to enclose my report on the boundary between Travancore and Madura from Poolanoor Kurungolum Peak to Kotay.

2. The line follows the natural water-shed between the two countries, the only apparent deviation being the country around Coomilly, which being drained into Madura by artificial means was in dispute until the matter was decided in favor of Travancore, and the present drainage declared to be diverted from its natural course.

3. The line from Kurungolum Peak goes southward along a lofty and precipitous ridge over Meechapillay, Puchapillay (called in the map Sholleamulla), Kullukamulla Theepady Sholah, Manialakava, Chotapara Merde, Ranheennulla, part of which hill drains into Madura, Bodynaickanore Mettoo, Wattata Mulla, west of Dodavat Peak (a high mountain thrown out by the water-shed line), Keeramana Para, Mutty Rethar Kanum, Wungeoda Perialla, Akamarcoil Thallaward, Warrakeel path, Ochilacootty Mettoo, Pillymulla, part of which drains into Madura,

Punderacootty Mettoo, Puthoocota Mettoo, Rondapoora Mettoo. Here the line turns north again to Euchatha Runda Mulla, throwing out Bomamamulla (probably the Bullymulla of the map), south again over Koly Ruppuda Mulla, Thugil Mulla (called in the map Degula Mulla), Edduky Mettoo Cathuga Mulla or Cuddavoo Mulla as it is marked in the map. Thoondaman Cotta Puthenettampuddy Mettoo, Athyuddy Mulla, Plancoonda Merde, Pillyaracotta Merde (Poolearoot Mulla in the map), Nagan Moopen, Peramboo Cetty Mettoo to Coothery Punja Mettoo. So far the boundary line is distinct and unmistakable, running as it does almost entirely along ridges whose eastern slopes descend in abrupt precipices into the low country of Madura, but at about this point the eastern slope becomes more gentle, grass-land taking the place of rocky cliffs.

4. The line then goes over Coottychatawa, Attiywulla, Cudduwa, Mutheracootty (where a small cardamom garden long in dispute between the Zemindar of Tawarum and this Government is thrown out of Travancore), Pulchona Merde, and Mancootty. At this part the slope towards the east is still more gentle and the line makes a curve throwing out some land where we have hitherto had temporary watch stations and a permanent mettoo called Tawarum Mettoo.

5. Hence it goes southward over Kotamullay Choola Para, Combay Mettoo, Okarry Tholoo Clapara Mettoo, Ethallapelly Mulla, Veerashungalu Mulla, Ramakul Mettoo. The boundary at this part winds considerably and is not naturally clearly defined; the slopes on both sides being gentle and no distinct ridges being found.

6. From Ramakul the line goes past Vellapara along spur stretching into Madura, rocky and covered with grass and small trees. Northwards from this point for a considerable distance the boundary goes over hills so gently sloping on both sides that it is only by careful observation that the water-shed can be followed. It passes over Cunnanootty Mulla, Cunnamurr Ootty Coothry *cum* Pallawy Mettoo, Aynerpothy Mulla Chelaputty Tholoo, Parriakat Pudisherry, Mumja Naicken Oottoo, Vellum Vagandapara, Chenna Ookerry, Raja Oodduppoo Anicut to Cumbum Mettoo.

7. Taking advantage of the natural features mentioned above, the inhabitants of the low country of Madura in former days made numerous anicuts all along this part of the boundary. They are now all out of repair, but some of them are works of considerable magnitude, and show what labor the people of the low country will undertake to procure the boon of water for irrigation.

8. From Cumbum Mettoo the line crosses Runjapeer Colum Anicut, Pootalpookanum, Marld Comeba, Thanikanpara, Thowkerrikan, Mundy Para, Chinootta, Agylooth Rashyakolum Wakyel, Erralakam Pucha Mulla, past Muchakul which drains into Madura, Taken Kunnavye, Parian Ooppoo Cullavapara Vakyel, past Chellakoil Mettoo (which is on the Madura slope of the hills) to Nayanshetta Colum Mulla.

9. At this point the line comes to the Shuranganar river, which, having its source in Kuttashoory Kanum, flows east into Madura; the boundary accordingly turns west and winds over Chowry Meeran Para, Wawa Peddavoo Merde, Washupudinge Mulla, Coshavacarta Mulla past the source of the Annakerry Aar to Kutasherrykanim, this being the source of the river Shuranganar. The line again turns east across Mola Mulla to Coomillay Merde. Here it turns north over Koollashavaku Merde and Vurreutta Merde, and again south over Shembarakurruppan Merde, Amaramullay Merde, Coomilly Mettoo Mulla past Coomilly Mettoo over Vetty Marutha Merde, Athecotha Mulla, Cocopara Merde, Mungal Davy, Porrypara Mulla, Moolloo Cardu Merde, Corulloolly Mulla, Coollypetty Mulla, Gootakul Merde across the path that leads up from Maythakarum Mettoo over Maythakarum Mettoo Merde, Culloovery Merde, Choodapully Merde, Cheeta Mulla, Irrananga Merde, Thara Merde, Namen Merde, Coolunge Mulla near the source of the Choorilly river which drains into British territory.

10. From this point it continues northwards over Peohatty Colum Merde, Parecownga Mulla, and another hill above the source of the Choorilly river.

11. Thence the boundary turns south above the Millyar ridge. It continues east over Cunny Marree Merde and Chinna Koomachy Mulla, then west over Nedanthyru Mulla, south over Shematta Mulla, Pucha Koomachy Mulla, Kurry Mulla, Chinnakul Mulla, Kumaren Shaten Mulla, Parcuddy Mettoo, Ellakul Merde, Ootacul Merde, Velly Mulla, Perumulla to Palvurungum or Koray Peak.

12. While the boundary thus demarcated generally represents the line that has hitherto been considered as such, there are certain portions that though situated on the British side of the water-shed have hitherto been in the possession of Travancore and over which Travancore has exercised rights.

13. From Kurungolum to about three miles south of Puthenettampuddy Mettoo the boundary is distinctly marked by nature, lofty ridges descending in abrupt precipices into the Madura country on the eastern slope.

14. From this point southwards to Coomilly the eastern slope is more gentle, that is, a greater area drains into Madura, and in many places no distinct ridges mark the water-shed. It is accordingly in this portion that we find lands hitherto under the authority of Travancore thrown out by the line.

15. From Coomilly southwards the portion of the line that crosses the Wurschand to Kotay was, I should suppose, never explored until the Boundary Commissioners went over it, the line in the map being very different from the extremely circuitous course which the actual water-shed follows.

16. Beginning at the north the first point upon which any dispute could occur is the position of Puthenettan Puddy Mettor, which is situated a few yards to the east of the boundary, the building is a permanent one, and has long occupied its present position, which was evidently chosen on account of its being safe from elephants. I should not consider the position of this station a point of very great importance as by the construction of a trench a safe place could be obtained elsewhere, though not in quite such a suitable place for a Mettoo.

17. There is an important fact to be remembered with regard to Mettoos; they must be on the path leading from the low country and they must be near water. It is this that I wish to draw attention to with regard to Tawarum Mettoo, where the Travancore Government has long exercised its rights; it is situated most favorably for the purposes of a Mettoo near water and upon the most frequented path leading to the cardamon hills. If this Mettoo be removed there is no water at all near the water-shed on the Travancore side, and I think that considering Travancore has hitherto been in possession of Tawarum Mettoo as it now stands, the line should be altered so as to include that station, or at any rate the Mettoo allowed to remain where it now is, which would be no more than permitting an Agent to watch over our interests in Comelay.

18. South of Cutherapunja and between that and Mancooty is a cardamom garden, small and of little value in itself, thrown out by the water-line.

19. This has long been claimed by the Zemindar of Tawarum, and after frequent disputes was made the subject of a suit against Mr. Munro, formerly Superintendent of the Cardamom Hills, who was not allowed by the Sircar to attend as the matter in point was a political question between the two Governments.

20. This garden though in itself of little value may prove both a centre for thieves to collect before making raids upon the neighbouring Travancore estates, and also an excuse by which detected thieves may escape justice, as they will say they obtained their cardamoms from it. It is, however, unfortunately undisputably thrown out by the water-shed boundary line.

21. A small garden of a similar description lies between Kotay Mulla Merde and Choolla Para, and is claimed by the Comelay Zemindar; this is not situated very near the main cardamom gardens and is consequently not of so much importance as the last named.

22. The next point to be noticed is that in the crop season watch stations are placed in various points on the eastern slopes especially between Cutherapunja and Tawarum Mettoos; these are temporary erections, and I am unaware whether this can be considered as a foundation for a claim to possession.

23. Between Ramakul and Chellakoil Mettoo the water-shed line is in many places considerably west of the immediate slope to the low country, but the land is of so poor a nature, grass interspersed with stunted trees, that its being thrown out cannot be considered as any loss.

24. Chellakoil Mettoo itself is on the British side of the line, and for the same reasons as stated with regard to Tawarum Mettoo cannot in my opinion be moved consistently with the interests of the Sircar. In fact if it is removed from its present position it will be impossible to find a site for it near water on the Travancore side.

25. The next and greatest deviation from the old map line is the bed of the Shunganar river, which takes its rise in Kuttashoory Kanum about four miles west of the extreme slope. The water-shed line thus has to turn due west from the ridge above Gúdalúr, wind about four miles in, and then turn round the source towards the east again. Thus a long tongue of land six or eight square miles in area and stretching straight into the hills is excluded from Travancore.

26. This consists of grass land and is good grazing ground for cattle, and a long existing tholoo or cattle station shows that Travancore has had possession of this actual portion, owners of cattle grazing on this land have always paid fees to the Sircar.

27. The boundary if taken straight across from Naganshetta Colum Mulla to Vurreatta Merde would include this land, which can be of no use to the British Government as it can only be reached by passing through Travancore territory.

28. South of this the only instance of the Sircar having any present possession east of the boundary is at Mythagarum Mettoo; this Mettoo has only recently been removed there, and might just as well, if not better, be placed on the Travancore side.

29. It will thus be seen that the Mettoos of Puthenettampuddy, Tawarum, Chellakoil, and Maythakarum are thrown out; Maythakarum Mettoo has lately been removed and had better be placed in Travancore. The other three have long been in their present positions, and only one, viz., Puthenettam Puddy, can in my opinion be moved consistently with the interests of the Travancore Government.

30. A large strip, the bed of the Shunganar, always hitherto belonging to Travancore, is thrown out.

31. The right of stationing watch-houses on the eastern slopes wherever the protection of the cultivation of cardamoms is concerned should, I consider, be insisted upon by His Highness' Government.

No. 126. ORDER THEREON, 7th October 1880, No. 1,313.

Miscellaneous.

UNDER the explanation afforded by the Resident, His Grace the Governor in Council is pleased to approve and sanction the proposeddeviations from the water-shed boundary, which are considered very important in the interest of the Sirkar's cardamom monopoly; the Mettoo at Maythakaram, which was only recently placed there, being removed to Travancore territory.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Secretary to Government.

To the Resident in Travancore and Cochin.
„ the Board of Revenue.
„ the Superintendent of Revenue Survey.
„ the Political Department.

Exd. W. H. French.

65 Copies.

20-4-66

Govt. of (1880) Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE RESIDENT IN TRAVANCORE,
AND COCHIN,

&c. &c. &c.

Dated October 7th.

Published 1880.

Read.

G.O., 7th October 1880, No. 1251.

OCTOBER.
Nos. 1251-1261.

Volume 3/81

CONCERNS BOTH BRITISH INDIA
AND INDIAN STATES.

Original

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Volume 3/81

CONCERNS BOTH BRITISH INDIA
AND INDIAN STATES.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 543.

From Resident Travancore.

Dated 23 Sept. 1880.

FOR ORDERS.

Note. See Lieutenant Ward's Letter to Mr. Sprigg No. 1825 dated 5th Sept. 1879.

In para 2 p.c. 5 Sept. 79 No: 1825 it was ruled that certain prescriptive Maldivian subjects belonging to the Travancore Cardamom Hill tract, which lie on the Eastern or British side of the Ecclesiastically defined watershed boundary line of Travancore where they are (with one exception) but-deal the boundary would not be modified to include them in Travancore administration.

Mr. Sprigg's own position on that point was that Travancore could not have any jurisdiction

Letter long previous to Travancore establishing Limit that we can contest this Question this or this prior of 3. not of the 4 Station

As regards the Small Cardamom Garden &c

Rights at their stations, that one will be evaded, that matter can be left at some cost & inconvenience & that the remaining two cannot to be of use be placed elsewhere.

Either these slight deviations from the line should be allowed at these places or the stations be excluded from the jurisdiction of the British civil & criminal Courts.

2. Travancore also want to include two small Cardamom gardens claimed by the British Zamindar

Eastern side of the Watershed
Mr. Macgregor tells me that Travancore Govt insists strictly asserts & exercises the sovereign rights & control & the King to - Idem

I do not think we can be the path from the low country to the dear water.

Eastern line we can agree from & relinquish that we have not hitherto claimed. We cannot insist on the Watershed boundary in the face of open adverse possession - Reclaim & retain.

Mr. accepts or accepts this not known as to the

I see no reason to object to the proposal - Mr. Letter forwarded by Mr. Macgregor

Superintendency rights of individuals - only Kuravill Land to be established before Travancore authorities

I think we must admit the Travancore claim Mr. Ain. Govt standing that only the one Land Settlement Ch. L. Irvine. 2/9/80

2/9/80

D. Iswaran Pillai filed a petition against Mr. Lewis for holding Superintendency of the Cardamom Hills. Pillai was allowed by the Sirkar to attend as the matter in point was a political question between the two Govts.

2. Claimed by the British Zamindar of Bombay

This last the present Superintendent of the Cardamom Hills says is not of much importance to Travancore Govt

Mr. Macgregor says that "Pardus" to present taken from meaning Soli of Travancore there must be enforced the Travancore Cardamom system

Thy. that the
Cultivator should
hand over his
Crop to the Suppy-
-ing fixed share com-
-muted into
money at the
selling price of the
year. The option
is essential to protect
the bona fide
Cultivator of
Cardamoms and
is not inconsistent
with any right
that the Zemindar might
establish as the
Cultivator of the
garden."

The bill is
hardly consistent
with any right
he might establish
as proprietor

3. Lastly
Travancore
want the valley
of the basin of the
a stream called

Sheveroy Hill
called Flores East.
This valley they
have had possession
of hitherto & it can
only be approached
from Madura by
passing thro' Travancore
territory.
This might be
given up if they
will agree to consent
the source of the
stream.

5. Attention is
invited to the
Revenue Settlement
& We have reserved
our right in Wynaad
beyond the time there
specified. Our long
Connection with Travancore
where we have
exercised rights of
Ownership.

Lay

C20.9
K49.4
N6.10

1.

From

A. Macgregor Esqre,
British Resident,
Travancore and Cochin.

To

C. G. Master Esqre C.S.
Secretary to Government
Revenue Department.

Sir,

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Copy

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(c) Chellacoil
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If these reservations could be allowed, the views of Travancore would be fully met. The line already marked could be mapped as the boundary, and the reservations defined after preparation of detailed survey.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant.

Attacamund
23d September 1880

A. Cadell
British Resident
Travancore and Cochin.

Ord. No 1313

Under the Explanations afforded by the Resident His Excel the Govr in Council is pleased to approve [of Sanction] the [proposed] deviations from the Watershed boundary which are considered very important in the interest of the Sirkar's Cardamom monopoly. The matter at Maythichavan which was only recently placed there being removed to Travancore Country.

Seal

Sent for orders

4 To Resident. Dy 7 Oct 1880 with 2 of enclosures.
20 Boston
7 Supt. Northwards
5 Political Dept.

7 October 1880

Sept. 20/10/80

C20.9
R29/9
R6.10

125-126

No 21. 7. 80 Nos 232-35
- 6. 1. 80 - 33-34.
- 1. 6. 79 - 339 Lui
- 5. 9. 79 - 47-48.
- 1. 8. 79 - 1-3.

Revenue 1880 Dept.

From No 5743

A. MacGregor Esqr.
P. Bnt. Resdt. Trav. &c.
13.10.80

C. G. Master Esqr.
Secy. to Govt. Rev. Dept.

Dated Sept. 23/80
Recd — 23

E.2

Reporting views of the Trav. Govt. on subject of Cardamom Hill Boundary between Madura & Trav. & enclosing letters of Dewan & ... of Cardamom Hill Supdt.

Letter Noted