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CONCERNS BOTH BRITISH INDIA
AND INDIAN STATES.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	<u>7284</u> <u>1218</u>	Press <u>Mis.</u>
Dated	<u>3</u> <u>4</u>	18 <u>84</u> .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

READ—the following letter from G. D. LEMAN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 24th March 1884, Refce. on No. 653, Eng. Genl. :—

I have the honor to forward* a copy of the letter from Mr. Peet reporting on the demarcation of the Cochin-Coimbatore boundary.
* with two sketches (sent by banghy post).

2. The line demarcated and surveyed is as fair as can be, and I recommend that it be accepted by both Governments.

3. With reference to Mr. Peet's proposal that all paths should be neutralized, I doubt if it will be of any use though it can do no harm, if there is doubt among these wild people on the matter, if a notice be made to that effect by the English as well as the Cochin Governments.

4. The dispute, to which Mr. Peet refers, was caused by a difference of opinion between the Cochin people and ours as to the right of collecting cardamoms in a certain place. It had nothing whatever to do with whether a person is trespassing on a pathway or had a right to be on it. With the boundary settled there will be no dispute in future in the collection of the cardamoms.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From A. W. PEET, Esq., District Forest Officer, North Coimbatore, (on Special Duty), dated Coimbatore, 14th March 1884, No. 2020.

I have the honor to report on the work of demarcating the unsettled portion of the Cochin-Coimbatore boundary, as ordered in G.O., No. 751, dated 18th June 1883.

Our orders were—

(1) To demarcate the line from Palakadavu to Chorikal, that from Chorikal to Kaliyanapandal along the Sholay ar, being accepted by both Governments.

(2) To demarcate the boundary between Kaliyanapandal and Pannimed Kuttei.

I have delayed my report until the map of the new boundary was ready, as a boundary report is almost unintelligible without maps. This map reached my office yesterday.

I left Coimbatore on the 30th October 1883, and Mr. Gunther, who was sent on the part of Cochin, met me at Anamalai on the 1st November; and Mr. Tomlinson, of the Madras Revenue Survey, on the 2nd.

Two Surveyors, Messrs. Dalby and Seager, and a Re-chainer, Mr. Connor, went with us on the boundary.

The only forest representative who accompanied us throughout was Mr. Rodrigues, Ranger; but the Forester, Rutna Mudali, joined at Kaliyanapandal.

The Mulcer Forest Guard, Andy, is acquainted with the whole line. I mention these names in case of future reference being necessary.

2. On the 3rd we went to Mount Stuart on the Anamalais. Here we have delayed for a day or two, as many of the available coolies were engaged repairing one of the camps which had been injured by wild elephants. Camps had been prepared at Palakadavu, Noygund, Chorikal, Kaliyanapandal, and Periakalialiparae.

3. On the 6th we went to camp at Palakadavu; on the 7th I pointed out the line agreed upon last year, which starts from the stone on the old boundary near the river Palakadavu, at the camping place and ford of that name, thence goes up the river Palakadavu to the point of junction of a stream running into the left bank of the river near Sitakal.

4. For convenience we took the boundary from the Palakadavu camp along the right bank of the river. At the point of junction of the stream, the demarcation line therefore crosses the river.

5. Thence the line is taken up the stream to the summit of Noygund. The work of cutting up this stream was carried on during the 7th, 8th and 9th under the disadvantage of excessive rain.

On the 9th Mr. Tomlinson, Mr. Gunther and I went up the Noygund ridge, in order to try and lighten the work by cutting down to meet the Surveyors.

6. The cutting along the stream was very difficult; and owing to the dense growth of reeds, we fear that it will be almost impossible to keep the line open.

The main stream which runs into the river near Sitakal drains not only the narrow Noygund ridge, but the more important Palgund slopes and the country at the back between them. We therefore followed the main stream as far as a bifurcation, where a stream joins it from Noygund, and followed this stream up to the back-bone of Noygund.

7. On the 12th we shifted camp to Noygund; and all our mulceer coolies, some 30 or 35 in number, took the opportunity of running away. The heavy rain, and the dread of leeches in the dense forest to which we were now going, were no doubt the main causes of this desertion: but the mulceers are never to be depended on. We sent back for fresh coolies and went on with the work with the seventeen Kaders who were with us, who, with their numbers afterwards increased, remained loyally with us throughout.

8. By the 14th we had finished the clearing up to the ridge above the camp. All we could do after that was to clear slowly forward with a few Kaders, and let the demarcation and survey go on.

9. From the point on the Noygund ridge where the stream takes its rise, I agreed to take the regular foot-path as far as Chorikal. This, according to the information I had gathered last year, seemed to me to give a small tract to Cochin, in fact I thought it was taking two sides of a triangle instead of the third side by cutting a straight line to Chorikal. However, we had had such experience of the waste of time and labor in cutting the stream boundary, instead of taking the natural boundary up the Noygund ridge, that I had no hesitation in risking the prospect of a slight deviation in order to get a clear boundary. From the completed survey, however, it appears that the line taken is as straight as could have been adopted.

10. The time of our enforced delay at Noygund was not absolutely wasted, for we kept the Surveyors with us, and joined our boundary on to the old boundary line at a point where the latter cut the foot-path about two miles beyond Noygund; and thence we agreed to take the old line as far as Chorikal, as it followed the path fairly well. This saved a journey to Chorikal and when we shifted camp on the 21st to Kaliyanapandal we had the demarcation and survey of the whole line up to that point completed.

11. Nothing now remained but to determine the line between Kaliyanapandal and Pannimed Kuttei. This has been known throughout the later correspondence as "Major Freeth's compromise." Major Freeth's report was accompanied by an eye-sketch, and his proposal was to run a line between these two places along a ridge.

12. Last year Mr. Hudson and I saw something of the character of the country, and of the difficulties in the way of determining any satisfactory line. So we were glad to accept the eye-sketch as correct, and agree to this solution of the problem.

13. However, in working out the line on the occasion under report, we found that the eye-sketch was not a correct guide. The greater part of the country here is covered with dense forest, so that an eye-sketch is made under the peculiar difficulty of not being able to get a general view. The wonder is not that the eye-sketch should be inaccurate, but that the features of the country could be interpreted at all without any fixed points as guides.

14. The country is extremely broken; and the conclusion we came to was that the main ridges were running east and west rather than north and south. We tried for a day or two to make out any main ridge between Kaliyanapandal and Pannimed Kuttei, but entirely failed. We therefore determined that it was better to run a line due north and south, instead of wandering hopelessly among broken ridges, with no definite knowledge of our whereabouts. Still trusting to some extent to the eye-sketch, we believed that a due north and south line would bring us out slightly to the east of Pannimed Kuttei.

15. It took the Surveyors two days to find the end of the old river boundary at Kaliyanapandal. It was absolutely necessary to determine this, in order to connect our work with that portion of the old boundary line which was accepted as part of the present boundary.

This difficulty was at length overcome; but it was found to be due to the fact that work had been scamped by the stone-cutters on the old boundary, and plummet holes only had been cut in the rocks, without direction lines, or broad arrows.

16. On the 24th we traced Russell's line to its termination. This termination is south of the Sholay river on the end of a base line carefully laid down by Major Freeth. From this point we cut a line due south. This line we continued as nearly north to south as we possibly could till the 27th, when we came out to the summit of a high ridge running nearly east and west. The slope of the ridge descended steeply to the Kili Tod ar, and we discovered from the inquiries we made, with the aid of partial glimpses across the Kili Tod ravine, that the position of Pannimed Kuttei on the sketch map must be wrong.

17. On making this discovery, as it would have been waste of time cutting any farther, we determined to shift camp to Periakalialiparae, and go thence to Pannimed Kuttei, and cut back in a south to north line from that point. On the 28th we shifted camp to Periakalialiparae.

18. On the 29th we went to Pannimed Kuttei. Here I discovered the reason of the position of the cairn on the hill slope, which puzzled me last year, for we found that it was impossible to get down to the bed of the river. This we proved practically by going down until we reached a sheer precipice, and, climbing out by some overhanging roots, could have dropped a stone clear down into the stream below. The Vaddamalei (or Yeddamalei) river is very remarkable; for it flows for many miles between rocks so precipitous that even the Kaders hardly know any path to its bed. The Moodavas who live in this part of the country are the only people who know the tracts. In fact, the river flows through a regular canon.

As it was impossible to get down actually to the beds of the streams, we took the cairn visited by the former boundary commissions as sufficiently near the junction, and as representing the junction of the Maruvalei with the Vaddamalei ar, commonly known as Pannimed Kuttei.

19. Our object being to cut a line due north from the true junction, we endeavoured to correct the error of the position of the cairn by running the line due west for about a quarter of a mile, when we had reached the top of Pannimed Peak. In the map the junction of the Maruvalei stream is not quite correct. It should be a little more to the west.

20. From the end of the quarter of a mile run due west, Messrs. Tomlinson and Gunther on the 30th November commenced running a line due north. They found, however, from the unanimous statements of the Kaders that this direction would take them far out of the proper line, and they therefore stopped work.

21. We all went out on the 1st December, and finding now that the sketch map was hopeless as a guide, we cast about in various directions and at length tried a north-north-west line.

22. On the next day I went to explore the country, and Mr. Gunther continued the line. I saw enough to prove that Pannimed Kuttei was very much farther to the east of a north and south line through Kaliyanapandal than we could possibly have imagined.

23. On the 3rd, therefore, we took up the trace where Mr. Gunther had left it, and ran west for some time—for we were now thoroughly mystified—and then north-west.

24. On the next day, Mr. Gunther ran a line north-west and I again explored.

25. On the 5th, Mr. Tomlinson and I went to the point where we had ended our line cut from Kaliyanapandal, and Mr. Gunther to where he had left work the day before. We fired guns as signals, and cut from both ends, and joined the lines in the afternoon.

26. Mr. Gunther left for Cochin on the 6th, and Mr. Tomlinson and I went back to Pannimed Peak, and examined all the demarcation stones.

27. On the 7th, Mr. Tomlinson took stations; and we then examined the rest of the demarcation, reaching camp very late.

28. On the 8th, we shifted camp back to Kaliyanapandal, and Mr. Seager came in late, having completed the survey.

29. On the 9th, we returned to Palakadavu, and reached Coimbatore on the 11th, travelling day and night.

General Remarks.—I hope that the line now demarcated and surveyed may be accepted by both Governments. It is not an ideal boundary; for in the first place, we all agreed that there was no doubt that the natural and best boundary from Palakadavu would have been along the footpath up the Noygund ridge. However, we were hampered by Ward and Connor's stream, and therefore the boundary was taken along it. It is a fairly natural boundary, but will be difficult to keep open.

2. From the point where we struck the Noygund ridge on to Chovikal, and thence along the river to Kaliyanapandal, no better boundary could be proposed.

3. From Kaliyanapandal to Pannimed Kuttei, the line is not altogether natural; but the country is so broken and so densely wooded, that without fixed points of any sort, except the commencement and end of our line, and with an erroneous map as our only guide, I can only plead that we did our best.

4. As regards the map of the present boundary, I feel bound to state that I think there are some errors. I do not admit the correctness of the hachures, and the position of Peria Kalialiparae is certainly wrong. The ridge marked as running north above the name of Valamalaiar is, I think, to some extent a reproduction of the errors of former maps. All the evidence which we gathered tended to show that the Kili Todar rose a very long distance (several miles, the Kaders said) above the point where it crosses the boundary. The stream represented as running north from the Pannimed Peak we never explored, and I therefore do not admit it as correct. Peria Kalialiparae I believe to be more nearly where I have entered it in red ink, that is, at least two miles south of the point where it is placed on the map. This place puzzled us both last year and this, and I have little doubt that the solution of the difficulty was that the first Boundary Commission asked for the name Kalialiparae, as this was the only name mentioned by Ward and Connor in the country between Kaliyanapandal and Pannimed Kuttei. The Kaders thereupon thought they would gain by thrusting Kalialiparae farther back, and invented the name Peria Kalialiparae. The head Kader with us confessed that this was the case, when we asked

him quietly alone, but denied it in the presence of the other Kaders. However, we were all convinced by the evidence which we gathered at intervals by taking different Kaders off their guard that the true name of the place was Nellamallai. In fact, the stream at the foot bears that name. The position on the eye-sketch is very incorrect, for this camp on Nellamalai was within three quarter of a mile from the Vaddamalei river, and in fact within 150 yards of the top of the precipices above that river. It is situated at least nine miles by the foot-path from Kaliyanapandal.

5. In short, the correctness of the map can be accepted only as regards the surveyed line. I submit this explanation because I think that some contention may arise about the marked ridge entered in the map. Had we found any such ridge, we should most certainly have followed it. The country is so broken and so densely wooded that it is, I believe, impossible to represent it without having more points actually measured, and a regular plane table survey. This impossibility is borne out by the fact that Major Freeth failed, and I think I may venture to say that I know he was a specialist, and to state my belief that where he failed, no one would succeed.

6. I can only repeat that I hope that the line may be taken as surveyed. Mr. Tomlinson took particular care to see that every stone was properly marked, and the line as cleared is easy to distinguish and to keep open. The forest is of no practical use, except as a protection to the head waters of the rivers; and the main cardamom tract is, as the Kader sorrowfully reiterated, almost entirely to the Cochin side of the present line.

7. On the eye-sketch and the recent map, I have drawn north and south lines through Kaliyanapandal, to show the reason of our being misled at first. Pannimed Kuttei is four miles to the east of the position given on the eye-sketch.

8. In conclusion, there is one point on which I would ask the special orders of Government on behalf of the Hill tribes on both sides of the boundary, and that is, that all the foot-paths may be neutralized; by this I mean that our Kaders should have their right recognized to utilize the foot-path up the Noygund ridge, and that the Kaders of both sides should be free to use the path from Noygund to Chorikal, and that the Cochin Kaders should be free to use the paths from Noygund to Kaliyanapandal. These paths are literally highways; and were the matter tried in Court, I believe that there is no doubt that either side could prove their immemorial right to use them. However, the settlement of this question is earnestly requested here, in order to prevent a repetition of an event which took place two years ago, when several of our Kaders were seized on the Noygund ridge by Cochin peons—an event which might lead to unseen reprisals on the Kaliyanapandal path.

9. I should like to add a few words about the work. Mr. Dalby worked well till he was obliged to return from Noygund on account of ill-health. The other Surveyor, Mr. Seager, with the re-chainer, Mr. Connor, were most energetic throughout; and Mr. Rodrigues, the ranger, did excellent work in building the huts, arranging supplies, and keeping the accounts of the coolies.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 2 and 3.—Sketches.

RESOLUTION—dated 3rd April 1884, No. 1218.

Submitted to Government, with reference to G.O., dated 18th June 1883, No. 751.

2. The demarcation appears to have been carried out as far as possible in accordance with the instructions of Government, and the Board recommend that the line be accepted.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) E. GIBSON,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, with two Sketches.
Copy to the Collector of Coimbatore.

Ed. A. Raitt.

An. 2589

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1884.

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

Printed April 18th.

Proceedings, 3rd April 1884, No. 1218.

Submitting to Government letter from Collector of Coimbatore forwarding copy of report of Mr. A. W. Peet, *District Forest Officer*, North Coimbatore, on special duty, on the work of demarcating the unsettled portion of the Cochin-Coimbatore Boundary.

CONCERNS BOTH BRITISH INDIA
AND INDIAN STATES.

REVENUE (1884) DEPARTMENT.

No. 2589

From Board of Revenue

Dated 3rd } April/84
Recd. 19th }

No. 1718

E. 2.

SUBJECT.

Subj. to Govt. letter from Col. of
Quintature forwarding copy of Report of Mr. A. N.
Pillai, 1883. Forest Officer, South Co. and others, on
special duty, on the work of demarcating the
unsettled portion of the Cochin-Quintature
Boundary.

May 4. 84
Mis. G. O. No. 1768.

Transferred to the Political
Department with reference to G. O.
Political. 3rd Sept/83 to 6/84.

Enclosed and } Signed E. J. Loffman
28 April 1884 } Secy. Under Secy. to Govt.