APPENDIX – I

THE NILGIRIS A HUNDRED YEARS AGO

Madras District Gazetteer of the Nilgiris District, prepared by W. Francis ICS and published in 1908, gives a picture of the Nilgiris nearly a century ago.

"The Orange Valley! There is a perfume in the very name! Our old heart warms, and a delicious languor steals over our senses, as we recall to mind the silent, balmy incense-breathing more when first we trod the flowery shades of that enchanting spot... It seemed to us the abode of peace and innocence, a place for young lovers to walk hand in hand, culling the golden fruit and twining into bridal wreaths the snow-white blossoms which made the very air love sick with their fragrance.

The Nilgiri hills, having a rainfall of less than 40 inches on some of the driest parts of the eastern side, and of 200 inches on the moistest parts of the western slopes, possess, as might be expected, very varied and interesting flora, exceedingly numerous in 'genera and species.'

With the exception of dense, evergreen, moist forests on the western sides, the whole area has been well explored by botanists, and it is probable that there are few plants now botanically unknown on the plateau and the deciduous forests of the slopes, are of immense extent, very difficult to get at, and very feverish at the lower elevations; and as they contain no habitations or supplies of any sort, the visits of botanists to them have been generally of a flying nature. The trees in these tracts attain
an immense size, being often 200 or 250 feet in height, so that it is no easy matter to
obtain their flowers; and there can be no doubt that a good many un-described species
still await the botanist. Some of the trees flower in the cold season, some in the hot
weather, and some in the rains, while some few are in bloom all the year round' but it is
believed that the majority flower between February and the middle of May, which is
the most unhealthy time of the year. The shrubs, creepers and herbaceous plants in
these tracts are pretty well known, but a careful search at any season of the year,
should undoubtedly be rewarded by some novelties.

The same animals of the district include the elephant, tiger, leopard and Indian
(sloth) bear, the sambhar, spotted, barking, four-horned, and mouse, deer, antelope,
bison, pig, 'Nilgiri ibex' and wild dog, besides hares and the fast and sturdy hill jackal
which is the quarry of the Ootacamund Hunt.

Elephants may be said never to visit the plateau itself now-a-days, though sixty
years ago they now and then came up to the Kundaha to escape the fiery heat below.
Their chief haunt in the district at present is the belt of forest below the north side of
the plateau (round about Masinigudi and Anaikatti) and the Wynaad. There they are
still so numerous as to be sometimes a serious nuisance to travelers and cultivators.

Tigers occur all over the district, both on the lower levels and on the plateau.
They are commonest on the latter from March to June when the heat and the forest
fires drive them up from below. General Douglas Hamilton mentions seeing five of
them, (two full-grown and three younger ones the size of large leopards) all together
on one occasion near (Ounamund' (apparently what is now called ‘one mand’) shoal.
In 1903 a sportsman at Naduvattam succeeded in killing, one after the other, four
which had gone down into a deep ravine after a dead pony. Not long ago one was caught in the Ouchterlony valley in a barbed wire running noose fastened to two trees; which had been set by Kurumbas for sambhar, but after terrific struggles succeeded in breaking two of the wires and getting away with the loss of a great deal of hair and blood.

Leopards, like tigers, are common in all parts of the district. So many cases of black leopards are reported that there is some ground for supposing that they are commoner on the hills than in the plains. Bears are seldom seen on the plateau itself but are frequent on the slopes in the lower country.

The Nilgiri ibex (Hemitragus hylocrius, really a wild goat) is perhaps the most interesting of the game animals of the plateau as it belongs to a strictly Indian genus the only other species in which is the tarh of the Himalayas, occurs nowhere in the world. Outside the Madras Presidency; and, with the exception of an ibex on the higher mountains of Abyssinia, is the only goat living south of the north temperate zone. When Europeans first came to the hills, it was unknown to science and was commonly called ‘the chamols’. It is not, as its name would imply, peculiar to the Nilghiris, but is found all along the Western Ghats southwards (including the Anaimalals and Palnis) as far as Cape Comorin. In this district it lives only on the plateau and is commonest on the precipitous southern and western sides of the Kundahs. Its arch-enemy is the leopard.

A generation before Francis, another write has chronicled the beauty of the land in the last century as follows²:-
The country in which we find the Todas, though not by many moves perhaps the seat of his origin, is worthy of notice; for thus we shall better realize how man lived in days when he had advanced scarce more than one step from the period of his rude simplicity; in what style of place he gradually acquired forms and social habits, that he never forsook entirely; and how he multiplied unobserved, until his country could be longer contain his progeny – then migrated and founded nations.

Picture an abrupt-edged table-land, on the apex of a solitary mountain - a very Laputa in its complete isolation of some 7,000 ft. in altitude – whose evergreen surface is one continued intermixture of rounded hills, with tracts of rolling prairie; The hills as accessible as those of Malvern; the prairie land as ceaseless, in its long undulations, as the billows of an ocean. Short coarse grass, clothes the whole, save where the deep forest holds possession of the damp secluded valleys, or the cool little woods moss the banks of the prolonged gulleys, through which the trickling streams or dashing bourns course down the silent hill-sides; then collect, and, through successive vigorous rapids and tumultuous cataracts-where from behind the clouds of spray and mist, noise roars its prolonged approval-precipitate themselves into the plains below. Wherever, in fact, rich soil and a perennial supply of moisture may be found, there are the ever silent woods; for the periods of annual drought are long; the monsoon rain flows quickly out of the hard surface of the exposed hills; and the scorched grass containing the young saplings is yearly fired.

These woods and forests, and lovely glades, whose perfect quiet is broken only by the calls of wild animals and birds, or by the rustic sounds of Toda cattle-almost
equally wild-herding in the open, form pre-eminently the characteristic features of the
scenery; adding emphasis to the singularly peaceful beauty of the view.

Before the Englishman came to the Nilgiris, and colonized the Todas’ land, the
country was full of game; hares, peafowl, partridge, jungle fowl, and numerous small
birds, filled the secluded woods; deer of sorts, bison, and jungle-sheep roamed their
open pastures, the tiger and leopard were common; and packs of the wild dog –
chennai – running, mute, hunted the largest deer with the unerring certainty of fate.

The Toda buffalos, half-wide, had learnt to defend themselves and their young
by tactics, the offspring of their bravery and skill; forming a rough triangular phalanx,
with the courageous and strong bulls at apex and flanks, and the females and young in
the hollow of the base, they would face the common enemy, and charging him in a
body, gore and trample him under foot. The Todas, confident in the prowess of these
animals, leave them to be herded by mere striplings armed with light wands; knowing
that the animals and the children under their protection, would be perfectly safe².

Francis’s Gazetteer gives us information about the development of the district
since the turn of 19th century.

Early history:- The Nilgiri District may almost be said to be one of those happy
countries which have no history. Even had it been sufficiently rich or strategically
important to tempt an invader, its inhospitable climate, the difficulties of the passes up
to it and the feverish jungle which hedged it round would have deterred any but the
boldest. But it never contained any towns worth sacking or forts worth capture; and
the only inhabitants were poor graziers and cultivators. Consequently the rapacious
rulers round about almost disregarded it. For this and other reasons, the materials for an account of its people in the days preceding the British occupation are very meager.

The Mysore Wars so well known in history were waged by the East India Company against Haidar Ali and his son Tipu in the endeavor to cripple their power; and the Third Mysore war ended at length in victory; Seriangapatnam being captured in 1799 and Tipu killed during the final assault. In the treaty which followed (settling the division, between the Company and its allies, of Tipu's territories) the Nilgiri plateau, which was included in the 'Danaigincotah' district (revenue 35,000 Kantiraya pagodas) mentioned in the schedule thereto, was ceded to the Company.

Though a number of expeditions were sent by the English Administration in Coimbatore, to study the newly ceded area, it was not until the 1820's that the real beauty and climate of the territory was noticed and appreciated by senior English officers. According to Francis, much credit for this goes to Mr. John Sullivan, Collector of Coimbatore, Sir Thomas Monroe and Mr. S.R. Lushington, Governors of Madras. Their efforts made the Government take up development of Ootacamund as a sanatorium for sick and retired officers.

It must be remembered that there were then no hill-stations in India, and that officials who were broken in health by the climate of the plains used to travel all the way to the Cape or Mauritius (both altogether inferior, climatically, to the Nilgiris) to recoup. The possibility of there existing in South India, close to the equator, a region where the climate was cool and invigorating enough not only to restore invalids to health but to induce retired officials to settle down in it was at that time to most people absolutely incredible. Lieutenant Burton says that when the first visitors to the hills
stated that the thermometer there was 25 degrees lower than on the plains 'such a climate within the tropics was considered so great an anomaly that few would believe in its existence.

A report of September 1827 by Mr. Sullivan, sums up the progress made up to then at Ootacamund. 'Roads have been made in all directions about the settlement so that invalids may take either horse or palanquin exercise with almost as much facility as in the low country. A fine piece of water has also been constructed, on which boats are beginning to ply. A subscription has been set on foot for a public reading room.

Ootacamund, in short, is gradually approximating to a state of comfort and civilization.

Though succeeding Governors evinced a less personal and enthusiastic interest in the Nilgiris than had been shown by Mr. Lushington, the advantages of the hills were now so widely known and appreciated that they progressed rapidly none the less.

Lord Elphinstone became Governor in 1837, and during his rule the hills first began to be opened up for coffee estates.

In 1868, the Nilgiris district was separated from Coimbatore and placed under a Commissioner with revenue, criminal and civil jurisdiction.

In 1882, the district was put under the same footing as others, and a Collector was appointed. Francis’s Gazetteer gives us an idea of the land-use prevailing in the Nilgiris in the early years of the present century. The Gazetteer also talks of the rise and decline of coffee cultivation and mentions a brief ‘gold-rush’ that excited the district and caused distraction to the plantation industry. The minor mention accorded to tea, contrasts with the present dominant position of the crop.
district and caused distraction to the plantation industry. The minor mention accorded to tea, contrasts with the present dominant position of the crop.

AGRICULTURE in the district divides itself naturally into two classes; namely, the cultivation of food-crops carried out by the natives and the growth by Europeans of special products such as coffee, tea, cinchona, rubber, fruit, etc. The following statistics show at a glance the general agricultural position in the district.

**Percentage of the area shown in the village accounts which is**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taluk</th>
<th>Forest &amp; Other area not available for cultivation</th>
<th>Cultivable waste other than fallow</th>
<th>Current fallows</th>
<th>Net Area Cropped</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coonoor</td>
<td>42.8</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>29.6</td>
<td>20.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ootacamud</td>
<td>80.4</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>7.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gudalur</td>
<td>38.6</td>
<td>22.3</td>
<td>29.5</td>
<td>9.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District total</td>
<td>58.8</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>20.9</td>
<td>11.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Percentage of the area under each crop to total area cropped**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop</th>
<th>Sammi</th>
<th>Rice</th>
<th>Korali</th>
<th>Ragai</th>
<th>Barley</th>
<th>Wheat</th>
<th>Others</th>
<th>Oil-seeds</th>
<th>Condiments &amp; Spices</th>
<th>Coffee</th>
<th>Tea</th>
<th>Cinchona</th>
<th>Potatto</th>
<th>Others</th>
<th>Blue Gum</th>
<th>Others</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14.7</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>44.6</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>18.1</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>33.1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>43.9</td>
<td>13.1</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>36.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

186
From these it will be seen that in Coonoor taluk only half the area shown in the village accounts is cropped or under fallows, while seven per cent of its culturable land is still unoccupied and the remainder is forest or other land not available for cultivation; that in Ootacamund less than a fifth of the total area is cropped or fallow and hardly any unoccupied land remains, since four-fifths of the taluk is forest or other land not available for cultivation; and that in Gudalur the forests and occupied land each make up some two-fifths of the total area while as much as 'one-fifth is culturable but not occupied.

Again, in Coonoor, of the total area cropped, more than half is grown with coffee, tea and cinchona, while the chief cereals are the two millets called samai (Panicum miliare) and korali (Setaria glauca), which are often sown together in the same field; in Ootacamund the area under plantation products is proportionately smaller, while korali and ragi (Eleusina coracana) are the principal food-crops; and in Gudalur the percentage under coffee, tea, etc., is higher than in either of the other taluks, but the chief (indeed almost the only) cereal is paddy. The area shown under plantations in this last taluk, however, includes a good many estates which have now been practically abandoned. In both Coonoor and Ootacamund the areas planted with blue gum trees for firewood are considerable.

Coffee

The world's consumption of coffee is estimated at about sixteen million bags; and of this about twelve million bags are supplied by Brazil and the remaining four million by Java and South India. In south India more than half the coffee producing
million by Java and South India. In south India more than half the coffee producing area is situated in Mysore and the remainder in the Madras Presidency, Coorg and Tranvancore. According to the official returns, the area in the Nilgiris is now 26,000 acres; but the figures for this product are based for the most part on the planters' own reports, and as these are too often neither complete nor regularly forwarded the statistics are seldom really trustworthy.

The plant appears to have been introduced into the Malabar Wynaad from Anjarakandi by Mr. Brown in 1828, but it was not until 1839 that its cultivation became an enterprise of there. The first plantations on the Nilgiri plateau were started about the same time.

According to the statistics (which, however, as already stated, require to be accepted with reserve) the industry reached its highest point of prosperity in 1878, when the area cultivated in the whole district was 25,000 acres and the crop reached $10\frac{1}{4}$ million pounds. Insect pests and disease in the plantations, low prices resulting from increased production in other countries, and the dissipation of much energy in the vain search for gold in the Wynaad bwood of 1879-82 caused a reaction; and in 1883-84 the exports were 3 per cent less, prices in London having dropped from between pounds 3-5-0 and 4 pound a cwt. To between pounds 2-15-6 and pounds 2-19-0. Short crops in Brazil and speculation in the European and American markets occasioned a recovery in prices in the years following, and by 1890 they had risen to pounds 4-49-0 a cwt.

Various diseases, however, had ruined many estates, and the exports, instead of rising in consequence of better prices, began to fall. In 1892-93 prices still kept up
owing to the facts that the coffee in Ceylon had been so attacked by various pests that large areas of it had been abandoned, and that the crops in Java and Brazil were small. In 1893-94 the sustained operations of a French syndicate, aided by a series of revolutions (in 1889, 1891 and 1893) in Brazil and a short crop in Java, resulted in the high level being maintained; but in 1896-97 the Brazilian crop was splendid and the Indian one short, and prices declined sharply. In the next few years over-production in Brazil caused a further fall in all coffees of the classes which (like the Indian sorts) compared with the product of that country and were not of a grade superior to it, and this downward movement continued until 1900, when the low water-mark was reached and the average price of Indian plantation coffee was only pounds 2-7-0 a cwt. — a decline of 50 per cent on the figure of 1897.

Disease, however, was now doing much less damage than before, and in 1900-1901 exports began to rise in spite of the low prices realized. This rise has steadily continued up to date, and the quantity exported from the Presidency in 1905-06 (349,000 cwt.) was 45 per cent higher than the figure for 1900-01 and the value (171 lakhs) greater than in any year except one, since 1895-96.

It is only however by rigid economy and constant care that coffee estates now pay, and the industry is anything but a flourishing condition; Scores of plantations in the Wynaad have been entirely abandoned and relapsed into jungle, and others are in the hands of natives who merely pick such crop as the trees will give with the minimum of cultivation.
TEA:

Of the tea exported from India only a very small quantity is grown in South India, and even of this latter amount, the proportion raised in the Nilgiris is at present less than one-half per cent. The area under tea in the district is reported to be about 8,000 acres, but these figures, like those for coffee, require to be accepted with reserve since planters are irregular in sending in their returns. The area is undoubtedly increasing rapidly, however, as tea is less liable than coffee to diseases and pests and its price has not yet suffered to the same extent from over-production, so that in many cases it has been planted on estates on which coffee had provided a failure.

The history of the cultivation of tea in the district dates from 1833. However, many attempts failed before Tea estate became economical. Even by 1869, only 200-300 acres had been planted with Tea. The area expanded thereafter.

The Gazetteer contains an account of the attempts made in the 19th century to protect forests in the district. It is interesting to see that destruction of forests was noted with concern in 1908 also and blame was placed on previous occupants. The Gazetteer records:

The Sholas on the plateau, are not of any great importance from a commercial point of view, as the trees in them are slow-growing varieties (largely Eagenias and rhododendron) which produce timber of little or no value and probably take at least a century to mature; but they add greatly to the beauty of the country and are of immense use in protecting sources of water-supply.
There can be little doubt that throughout the country now occupied by the Badagas these shoals were formerly far more numerous and extensive than at present, and that the Badagas had one immense destruction among them even before the first Europeans came to the hills.

Many steams which were once perennial are now, owing to the absence of forests which might absorb rainfall, quite dry one day and raging torrents the next, and that the amount of scour they occasion when in these sudden floods is a danger to cultivation, roads and bridges.

When Europeans first settled on the plateau the great demand for firewood and building material resulted in much reckless felling of the shoals near Ootacamund and Coonoor, and Government made early efforts to check the mischief. They inserted a clause in the title-deeds of land granted by them requiring the grantee to plant a sapling for every tree he felled; and in 1837 they directed that in future no trees should be cut down within the military limits of Ootacamund without special sanctions, which sanction was never to be granted unless the trees were neither ornamental nor useful as protectors of springs. Neither rule did much good, apparently. In 1868, Mr. Breeks, who had recently been appointed as Commissioner of the district, said ‘Day by day I feel more satisfied that, unless conservancy is taken in hand and organized on some efficient footing under the control of an experienced officer, the destruction of the surrounding shoals is but a question of time.’

From 1st April 1869 the Government sanctioned the transfer of the woods and plantations on the plateau to the Commissioner’s care, the Jungle Conservancy Rules being introduced into them.
From 1st April 1869 the Government sanctioned the transfer of the woods and plantations on the plateau to the Commissioner's care, the Jungle Conservancy Rules being introduced into them.

In 1875, the woods were retransferred to the Forest Department, under the care of which they have ever since remained. But the destruction of the woodlands round the stations which had come into private hands either by purchase from the Badagas or by sales under the Waste Land Rules went on as before; and in January 1878 a commission was appointed to report what forests might be regularly reserved. Eventually Government decided in 1880 to reserve strictly the whole of the woods remaining on their Plateau, which by now except on the west of small extent.

But no demarcation of these woods on the ground was provided for, their boundaries being merely marked on the maps; and when, in 1882, the Forest Act was introduced, the selection, mapping and demarcation of the reserves had for the most part to be done afresh.

The figures in the margin show the extents now finally protected. The percentage of the area of Gudalur taluk (an almost unbroken sea of Jungle) which is reserved is small because so much of the land there has been declared to be private jannam property.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taluk</th>
<th>Area of reserves in square miles</th>
<th>Percentage to total area of Taluk</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coonoor</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ootacamund</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gudalur</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>404</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Nilgiris landscape at present, is dominated by the eucalyptus tree. Francis records the advent and spread of these exotic trees.

The Government's efforts to preserve the woodlands have been immensely furthered by the extensive planting of Australian trees for firewood which has been undertaken officially and by private agency. The Australian black wood (Acacia melanoxylon) wattle (A. dealbata) were first introduced about 1832. In 1853 the systematic planting of black wood and wattle was begun in the neighbourhood of Wellington, but it was not until 1856 that Captain (now General) Morgan imported a quantity of blue gum seed from Australia, set to work to sow some of it on a definite plan on the Tudor Hall estate, and distributed the rest among the settlers on the hills. Even by 1857 black wood and wattle were so scarce that plants of them were sold at the Government Gardens at four annas a piece, while blue gum plants fetched as much as twelve annas. These three trees have since then altered the whole appearance of the Nilgiri hill-stations, and acres of land which appear in the old sketches and photographs as open grass are now covered with their gloomy foliage.

The first Government plantation of Australian trees in the district was made in 1856 near Bleak House, Wellington. In 1858 Government sanctioned the planting of 10,000 trees in and about Ootacamund for ornamental purposes and with the idea of encouraging tree-growing by private persons. Except about the borders of the lake, few of the trees then put down survive, and these few have been indifferently cared for. Thereafter Government fuel plantations were formed at an increasing rate. By 1869, when the forests of the plateau were put under Jungle Conservancy as already described, they covered 191 acres, and by 1875, when the forest department took
charge, they had grown to 919 acres. Private planting had also been found to be very profitable and had proceeded space, and the cry to-day is not that there is any want of firewood (for trees barely pay for the felling) but that the houses in the stations are too often buried in masses of tall Australian trees which shut out light, air and the view.

Mudumalai forest is now a game sanctuary. It also contains valuable teak.

Francis' Gazetteer records;

The Mudumalai forest (46,600 acres) in the janmam property of the Nilambur Tirumalpad and was leased from him by Government for five years from 1857 and again for 99 years from October 1863. The forest contains much teak, vengai, ven-teak and several of the Terminalias, particularly T. tomentosa and T. Chebula, while in the valleys are black wood and the large thorny bamboo (Bambusa arundinacea) and on the drier uplands Anogeissus latifolia and the smaller or male kind of bamboo (Dendrocalamus strictus) in lesser quantities. On the northern border, next Mysore, large areas are covered only with coarse elephant grass through which fierce fires sweep annually; but in places the rather uncommon Shorea Tabura grown gregariously and is useful for posts, smaller timber, and mine props. In the ravines the teak does splendidly, but the forest has suffered in the past from frequent fires and from indiscriminate felling. It was originally leased to a timber merchant who removed as far as possible all accessible timber that had any value. It was then worked by Government and with the Benne forest contributed the greater part of the timber for the Wellington barracks. When it was first leased in 1863 Kurumbas were employed to search out, fell and square any teak trees of sufficient size which they could find, and these were then dragged out by elephants and sent to Masinigudi and Ootacamund.
for sale. Even in 1863, it was reported that at the close of the year’s operations ‘little or no teak fit for extraction would be left;’ but felling went on none the less.

In 1885, a beginning of better conservation was made. Parts of the forest were divided off and trees were felled in them in a more systematic manner, all big timber also all stunted and useless trees being removed to give the young teak as much light and air as possible and the compartment being then closed to cattle to allow of natural reproduction. Camping places were also fixed at definite spots in the hope of reducing the number of fires which occurred every dry season from people halting promiscuously in the forest. The system then inaugurated has been more or less adhered to since, but, as a late conservator put it, ‘we cannot expect to make a large revenue from the improvement fellings; the plums have most effectually been picked out of the came.’

This brief glimpse into the past, gives us a perspective which helps in understanding the changing face of the district in response to economic pressures during the last 150 years. Rapid destruction of forests took place in the 19th century. While systematic efforts at conservation have slowed the rate of destruction, the decline in forest area and quality of green cover, continued in the present century. The Hill Area Development Programme represents serious efforts made after independence, towards preservation of what is left of the Nilgiris ecology and restoration of at least some the degraded areas.
REFERENCES


APPENDIX-II

SAMPLE SURVEY OF SMALL TEA GROWERS IN THE NILGIRIS WHO HAVE SHIFTED TO TEA CULTIVATION IN THE LAST 20 YEARS

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Record Number : Factory code Serial Number
2. Date of Interview : Date Month Year
3. Name of Grower :
4. Name of the Village :
5. Name of Taluk :
   Ooty-1 Coonoor-2 Gudalur-3
   Pandalur-4 Kundah-5 Kotagiri-6
6. Total extent of land owned :
   Area in Acres
   0-1 1.1. -2 2.1. - 5 More than 5
   1 2 3 4
7. Extent converted to tea :
   1 2 3 4
8. When did you shift to Tea : 19
9. What was the crop earlier:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coffee</th>
<th>Potato</th>
<th>Vegetable</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Do you know about HADP:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. Did you apply for assistance from HADP for tea cultivation?

12. Did you receive it

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

13. If not, what was the reason, prompting you to shift to tea?

- Good Price Tea
- Other reasons

14. If answer to 012 is Yes, which factors influenced your decision to shift to tea (Rank 3 to 1 in order of importance).

- Good Price of tea
- HADP assistance
- Other reasons

15. According to you, why does HADP encourage Tea cultivation.

- To increase tea production 1
- To reduce soil erosion 2
- For other reasons 3