

HIS6B11 HISTORY OF MODERN KERALA

MODULE-1

TOPIC- CANOLLY REFORMS IN MALABAR

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- ▣ Lieutenant Henry Valentine Conolly- known as Canolly- dist collector of Malabar- murdered on 11th sept 1855 at Calicut
- ▣ Came to India as civil service official of English East India Company & became district collector of Malabar comprised of Palakkad, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Wayanad & Kannur
- ▣ Remembered mainly for two significant contributions- construction of Canolly canal & Nilabur teak plantation
- ▣ Those days roads & railways not good- difficult to take goods & men from hinterland to Calicut town- he considered if rivers of Malabar are connected through canals, it will improve trade & mobility of people

- ▣ He started the construction of canal in 1848 connecting Korapuzha or Elathur river in the north with Kallai river in south- passes through city of Calicut – was planned as a coastal water way in Malabar
- ▣ When construction completed it became useful to the people of Calicut & nearby areas
- ▣ It came to be known as Canolly canal
- ▣ Its importance as a means of transport had eclipsed with the introduction of railway in Malabar
- ▣ Another contribution –teak plantation at Nilambur – pioneering example of systematic forest management

- ❑ Contains some of the finest pieces of tropical hard wood teak- started by Madras govt at the request of Canolly for the supply of teak timber to Bombay port
- ❑ In 1840 – teak wood shortage at Bombay ship building centre- demand for more teak wood came from Bombay to Malabar- in this background this programme was initiated by Canolly
- ❑ Collector Canolly with the help of Dr.Riseberg from England selected 1500 acres at Nilambur at the confluence of 3 rivers- Karimbuzha, Ponpuzha & Chaliyar
- ❑ Entire plot was planted with teak & it stands today as one of the remarkable teak plantation in the world
- ❑ First Basel Mission church at Calicut city was built during Canolly's collectorship
- ❑ On 11th sept 1855- small band of Mappila insurgents attacked & killed Canolly – breaking into his bungalow at East Hill, Calicut – in retaliation to decision of Canolly to exile the religious leader Sayid Fazal Pookoya Thangal of Mamburam to Arabia

- ▣ Thangal had given leadership to peasant rebellion at Manjeri in 1849- his exile was a part of action of suppression of the peasant upsurges of 19th C Malabar
- ▣ Canolly had recommended the deportation of Thangal from Malabar to any other part of India – govt decided to exile him to Arabia
- ▣ Murderers of Canolly – Valassery Emalu, Paliyan Kunnath Themu, Haider- caught by police after 6 days of incident & shot dead by British forces in public at Edavannapara in Malappuram