

started on the march for *Sipurio* at 6.30 a. m. of the 2nd day of October. Pushing the march we could make in one day what it took us two to make going up. Arriving at *Biquicha* we met the horses and could hardly reach *Narbura*, because the night and a storm came on together. His Worship and Dr. Bovallius continued on at full speed as far as the house of the Chief, where they slept, leaving the rest of us in *Naibura*.

On the morning of the 3rd we mounted our horses and at 10 a. m. we all came together in *Sipurio* without anything new. We celebrated the Holy Sacrific at which were present all the company and the Christians of *Sipurio* and we rested that day from the fatigue of the journey in order to begin the mission on the next. This was a regular campaign, for we did not lose a moment in explaining the beliefs of our August Religion, in the church, in the plaza, on the highways and in the private houses. On Monday we sent a messenger to the Chief of *La Estrella*, announcing our visit and that they should get hold of the *Usecra* so that His Worship might talk with him. In the 8 days that we remained here we baptized 300 Indians and there were united in matrimony 70 couples, after explaining to them well in their language the meaning of the sacraments which they received. On the 8th, on which was celebrated the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin, there was such a crowd of Indians to baptize that it was necessary to put them in a line on the public square and there to begin the baptism at 11 a. m. and to finish one by one the holy ceremonies in the church at 6 p. m. These Indians were the most part from the River *Cocu*, and His Worship provided, not only on this day but on all of the eight days that we were there, with the settlement full of people to hear the word of God, the dinner for everybody.

During these days two Jamaica negroes received baptism and were married, who were catechised for several days by the Bishop and one of them said that he had labored for two years to bring the Indians to accept the beliefs of the Protestant religion which he professed but had not been able to make any progress, that he saw the disinterestedness and the kindness with which he worked and he desired to be baptized, having more faith in the truths of our religion. There was also conferred the Sacrament of the Confirmation upon 20 of those who were best instructed. In the

talk two days before the Nativity of Our Lady, the Bishop showed to the company the desirability that all he confessed in order to take part on the 8th day of the festival, receiving the communion, as was in fact done, thus giving an example to the Indians and some Christians who were somewhat forgetful of God were brought in finally on the last day. No more could be expected in a village where for a year religion had been scarcely known and the few Christians living there forgetting that they must die spent their days in the most complete abandonment of religion.

The last day that we spent there we gave the afternoon to looking over the lands of the Church and examining the books and accounts of the parish. The land is a beautiful spot, quite level and more than one-third of it is cleared. It has a *patriotal*¹ which has made good progress and it has streams on the North and South. The Church and the parish house are both poor but they are sufficient for the needs of that growing parish. The Señor Curate said that he desired to go to the interior to get cured of a rheumatism with which he was suffering in his legs for some two months and His Worship gave him permission and he decided to leave the key and the care of everything with Mr. Lyon, the Secretary of the Chief. This was a memorable day, on account of His Worship getting the *mysterious stones for the cure of every kind of disease*, according to the silly belief of the Indians, and some powder that they use to make women barren. This and the ease with which they leave one woman to take another, is doubtless, a reason for the decadence of these peoples. * * * They were left in the hands of a competent authority to punish them as the law provides and the Christians were well advised of the serious character of these crimes so that they should not commit them.

As the Señor Curate was unable to make his trip by land it was decided that two of the company should accompany him and a *mozo* (servant boy) who was afflicted with a burn on his foot. Señor Lyon accompanied us on the journey to *Estrella* and so, there made up the company of His Worship, Professor Hübech, Dr. Bovallius, three *mozos* of *Tucurrique*, one *Guatuso* and 17 *Talamancas* Indians. On Tuesday, October 12, we started at

¹ Plantation of bananas.

8 a. m. on the road to *Estrella*, reaching *Suritico* at 10 a. m. In that place we found a herd of goats with 15 head, of a good appearance. We crossed to the other side of the *Tiliri* in a canoe, at the junction of the latter with the *Zidole* and we went up the latter which is not so large and the water is clearer than the former, crossing it ten times. We left the river a mile to the left before reaching * * * and at two in the afternoon we were at the house of Justo. We reached this house in time to be of help to a sick *peón* who had been bitten by a *coral* snake. We arranged the altar for the following day and set up a cross of laurel five yards high on the side of the Gospel, charging that it be always kept as a memorial.

All the residents of this place are Catholics, natives of *Chiriquí* and *Nicaragua*; there were only seven young persons without baptism and one pair to marry. In the evening, after the Holy Rosary, there was preaching and instruction given, so that they might on the following day receive the Holy Baptism, taking the necessary steps also for the celebration of the marriage. Very early in the morning His Holiness celebrated the Holy Mass and he said the nuptial mass preaching to them and admonishing them to live properly and to flee from sin. This is a quite healthful location, although they suffer from fevers, but not of a bad character. The soil is fertile and adapted to cacao and cane for making sugar. There is a good deal of *laurel* and extensive plaintain groves on the bank of the River *Zidote*, from which it is distant about a mile. It has the same altitude as *Sipurio* and the temperature is more steady, from 18 to 20 degrees Réaumur in the shade and 38° in the sun.

At 7 o'clock on the 13th we continued our journey, climbing a hill called *Siruribeta*, of two thousand feet above the level of the Sea. At one o'clock we descended to the junction of the Rivers *Moiñoc* and *Dului*, where we took breakfast and rested a little. This is an exceedingly picturesque location, both rivers descending through deep channels and opening there forming an esplanade open to the North, toward which both rivers flow together, taking the name of the latter. Here we all had reasons to be pleased. Dr. Bovallius found in the river a shrimp of a species quite unknown, about two inches long, of a dark brown color and one of the antennae was two inches long. The botanical pro-

fessor found a plant that was unknown to science: it is a shrub with bright green and alternate leaves, the flower of which is a continuation of the twigs, but reddened with a very deep color and at the bottom of each one dark brown more like in a circular shape. There are some rubber trees and many and good woods. The hill of *Siruribeta* is very beautiful and suitable for a coffee plantation on account of its height and the character of the soil. The ascent on the North is not an easy grade, while the descent on the South side is less than five percent., this face measuring a distance of eight miles. One of the roads of this journey was that we then took to the place of *Duluy*, where we arrived at 6 p. m., crossing the river more than twenty times and sometimes getting as much as 200 yards downstream. There is about the middle of this river a fall that makes a great noise and in many places its waters are thick and muddy. Nothing happened to us on this day with the exception of our tiredness at our arrival. As the night came on the Indians prepared the altar, placing the cross five yards in height at the extreme of the altar.

Here there is only a very small hut, inhabited by an Indian married couple. Nevertheless we did not feel like going on two hours farther as far as *Bitey* and so we dined and passed the night packed in almost. This hut is for the most part open at the sides, with the fire in the middle. The wife of the Indian had an ugly ulcer on her leg, like those with which they are afflicted in *Talamanca*, the effect of their food and careless life. They are not, as some have supposed, caused by the bite of the mosquito, nor the effect of the climate.

(*Conclusion of Book 3, and beginning of Book 4*).

The vicinity of the mountains, under the immediate influence of which the Indians of *Talamanca* live, and the other peoples on these coasts of the Atlantic, the flesh of the Castilian pig, which is their almost sole food and their careless life, are the causes of these ulcers, which we have before mentioned, and many of them present a syphilitic character. His Worship said mass at 6 a. m. on the 14th (October) and recommended them to keep that cross on the altar as a memorial; and after breakfast we started on our march to *Bitey*, where we arrived in two hours, passing a densely wooded section located in a ground that was entirely level. In this place there are three large huts where many Indians live, but

we only met one woman who did not want to speak a word. Señor Lyon arrived somewhat ill and his condition getting worse it was necessary to make a bed for him with poles and to get him all the possible comforts in that place. The hut in which we were installed was the place where some pigs were kept, opened on the sides and poorly roofed, for it did not seem prudent in those regions to enter dwellings abandoned by the Indians. But very soon our poor cabin was changed into a good one because everybody set to work to improve it. Roof, walls and bed, all were prepared in one day. The altar was set up in a little clearing, which was made on the west, and the cross was placed as usual.

On the next day, the 15th, the Holy Mass was said, and we breakfasted. In a little while there came an *Alcalde* from the River *Estrella*, saying that the Indians were fleeing, because Biterio, the *Jefe Político* (political head) of *Estrella* had threatened them if they presented themselves, that those who were baptized would die and that we came killing the Indians and eating their pigs and fowls and that he left them to go to complain to the Government of *Costa Rica*. The Bishop asked him if there were many Indians up the river and as he said there were, he decided to go alone with the *Alcalde* and a *peón*, as he did, leaving after breakfast at 10 a. m., recommending us to take care of the sick man who was getting worse daily.

On the 16th, in the afternoon, he came back, without having been able to find the Indians, who were really fleeing, finding all their dishes in confusion, so that there was no hope whatever. All he could ascertain was that Biterio or Emeterio was a Christian, who lived with four women in his house and that he had in fact gone into the interior with two of them and ten Indians. In *Zivole* we received a letter from his Secretary, Señor Gregorio Segura, pretending not having seen him and informing us of the absence of the Chief and that it was useless to make the visit because the Indians were very wild or savage. This Señor Gregorio Segura is a Catholic, a native of *Honduras*, and he lives close by Biterio and counsels him not to permit the teaching of the Indians, which would deprive him of his easy and free life. Nor was the *Useera* there and here we learned that the three were making common cause and that the latter had not left *Cabécar* and that they were planning to abandon this point in

order to collect the Indians at the headwaters of the *Estrella*, as favored by Biterio. The Bishop brought three Indians, the mother of Biterio and two of his women, to make them presents and attract them in this way, and in fact it was successful. In the evening of that day the dwellers in the huts began to come in and some inhabitants from the River *Estrella*, almost all Colombians. Some young people were confessed for confirmation and there were some that wanted to be married; and in the morning of Sunday, the 17th, His Worship said the Holy Mass and immediately I performed two marriages and said the nuptial mass. Ten were baptized and five were confirmed, the divine word was communicated to them, counselling them to live uprightly, and we decided to leave that place as quickly as possible on account of the continuing illness of Mr. Lyon and the bad climate. Presents were made of clothing to those who had recently come in and many necklaces and buttons, all being well satisfied. They promised to go to *Limón* and to take more Indians, in order that they may be taught in the truths of religion.

This place of *Bitey* is beautiful,—it is on the River *Bitey*, upon a high tableland of a half mile. Everything is charming here; an infinite number of birds, with more varied colors than anywhere else;—wonderful humming-birds, among which I admired one of five inches, perfectly black and white at the end of the tail: a cinnamon woodpecker with white crest and on every side Nature was smiling. In front of us we could see the blue mountains of the *Estrella*, while at our feet a little river, the *Bitey*, wound through a deserted forage pasture of a hundred *manzamas* at the least, bordered by fertile *patriotales*.² But, O! the misfortune of it,—the climate was the most unhealthful in the Republic. From midnight until daylight, the air was so humid that everything was wet and the lowering of the temperature was very rapid. Everyone became ill and the Bishop was made hoarse, while poor Señor Lyon continued almost unconscious, the Indians were catching cold and Señor Bovallius and myself with chills. We clearly saw that another day remaining there would be fatal for us all.

So it was that at two o'clock on Sunday, the 17th, we decided to go to the mouth of *Estrella*, carrying Señor Lyon in an im-

² Banana plantations.

provised chair as far as the River *Duluy*, which joins with the *Bitey*, where we put him in a canoe. By three o'clock we were already on the river on our way to the mouth. It is very level here and when it empties into the *Estrella* it is charming. The same panorama was admired as on the River *Sixaola*, with the difference that the whirlpools or little rapids are less dangerous. In the middle of the river one of the canoes that accompanied us was upset and in order to favor it we delayed in reaching the *Boca* (mouth). It was 7 p. m. when we gathered in the house of Señor Treyes (a Spaniard), who was engaged in the rubber trade with the Indians of the interior. After eating we retired to rest.

On Monday, the 18th, we stopped in this place, collecting the Catholics scattered along the river, preaching to them the word of God and caring for Señor Lyon, who was much improved by the change of temperature. At 9 a. m. I said the Holy Mass, at which all the residents were present. It was remarkable to see the variety of races that were found here: *Talamancas* Indians, *Cabécars*, *Guatusos*, *Estrellas*, Costaricans, Nicaraguans, North Americans, Germans, Swedes, Austrians, Jamaicans, Spaniards and Canary Islanders. These composed the congregation. The altar was located in a cocoanut grove on the bank of the river and on the other side from the Sea. There were baptized several *Talamancas* Indians and three couples were married, notifying them they were required to go to *Limón* to receive the nuptial benediction. The Holy Sacrament of Confirmation was administered to 9 and the voyage was arranged for the next day for *Banana*, leaving the Professor and Dr. Bovallins in care of Señor Lyon, who was already much better. Here the Indians were dismissed and their wages were paid to them.

On Tuesday, the 19th, at 6 a. m. we left the mouth of the River *Estrella*, with the Sea entirely calm, a very remarkable thing in that locality and a very light wind off the shore. We made sail, nevertheless, in the canoe, and sometimes pushed through with the paddles and at others driven by the wind, we reached the River *Banana* at 12 in the day, the mouth of which was a little rough. With the hability of the Master or Captain and the cleverness of the boatmen, in three minutes we struck through the short stretch of the entrance. We were very little

wet and His Worship determined that they would all go at once to *Limón*, leaving the altar, since we were threatened momentarily with the impossibility of departure. Soon we saw ourselves alone and we began our mission from house to house. There we found many Colombians, living by fishing and in the greatest poverty. The Justice of the Peace, Señor Santana, told us that the greater part of the residents were absent and that he would send a messenger along the banks of the river so that they should go to *Limón*. We made the altar and notified Santana that a cross should be placed in the same place. The few of the faithful being gathered, the word of God was preached to them and the Holy Rosary was recited; we retired and before daybreak His Worship celebrated the Holy Sacrifice and explained the Gospel to the hearers, exhorting them to live uprightly.

This locality is fairly healthful and abounds in fish: there is only one parcel of land cultivated with *patriotales* and the soil seems very fertile. The special thing that happened here was that while seeking the residents we met a *Cabécar* Indian, with his wife and sister-in-law, who belonged to those that had fled. He wondered much, to hear his own language from the Bishop, but once he calmed showed his disquiet, as if our eyes were burning him, getting farther and farther away. We followed him and the Bishop gave to him an *escudo* of gold, a thing which they esteem very highly, but he would not take it, saying that he could work to earn it and that he did not need anything. We admired this integrity, which did not appear in any other Indian, and we urged him to come to the Rosary and the preaching in the evening. He promised it and in the dim light we saw him cross the river on an improvised raft with his family and belongings. On Wednesday, the 17th, we left very early in the morning on foot for *Limón*, where we arrived at 10 a. m.

This visit has had much greater results than had been expected. There is a population already of 600 Christians and 70 married couples, one parcel of two *manzanas*, one of about a half *manzana*: one church with the needful furniture: one curacy house adjoining and a kitchen and servant's house, all of wood of the palms and thatched with straw. The Indians of that section are much more attached than before, they do not flee from the company of Christians and they will soon be

living in settlements. The inability to speak the language multiplies the difficulties of civilizing these people, but His Worship on this trip finished his data on the language in order to improve the communication. The chant of the *Sucurs* or priests is set down and does not contain anything in particular, for the idiom in which they chant for the dead is nothing more than the real *Talamanca* dialect of the period of the conquest, without any Latin as some had supposed, only the word "*Sabaot*." The music is similar to that used in the Spanish church, particularly in the Lamentations of Jeremiah, on Holy Thursday. With all that we have done to persuade them of the foolishness of their creeds they will not give up the belief that they have in the *Usecra*, it has not been possible to destroy at all that superstition; they still have some fear that he can harm them. It might be that they have a material fear, for they are not so stupid as to fail to understand that the man can not have power over the winds and the storms, over life and death. It were obtained the mysterious stones for healing and the powders which produce barrenness in women, and the authorities were advised so as to prevent this crime. The trip to the ancient capital, *San José Cabécar*, although it was not fruitful in spiritual matters, because the Indians hid themselves, it was not in material matters, since we found the ruins, obtained a skull of the Indians and we had occasion to admire the pastures and plantain groves which show the former existence of a laborious population.

Third Visit to Talamanca in 1890.

On Thursday, January 3, we proceeded on our march and had to cross the River *Serer*, a tributary of the *Estrella*. Happily we found a crossing where the river was divided into three branches forming two islets. Crossing the *Serer* (*Periquito*), we came to *Mome* (*Achiote*), a large island, formerly inhabited by the Cacique Emeterio. He and all of his family were dead. Many Indians have died since 1883, when His Holiness came for the first time to *Mome*.

From *Mome* we took the road by the plains that were flooded throughout their extent. Of the road nothing was to be seen,

and we proceeded stepping in the water during two hours, falling over sticks and roots and into holes which were hidden in the water, until we reached higher ground. Higher up there was a *palenque*, in which we found the Justice of the Peace and several Indians who came to meet us. We continued along the bank of the *Estrella*, which looked like a small sea, so greatly had the river risen, doing no small amount of damage to the Indians, with their cattle, their breeding of pigs, plantings and even their houses. At 5 p. m. we reached *Cacharva*. On this day one of the *Borucas* escaped being bitten by a large *toboba*. The Indian was coming along, almost the last, and the *toboba* enraged by the noise which the first passers had made struck furiously at the Indian; happily it hit the load which the Indian carried on his shoulder.

In *Cacharva* were gathered some of the Indians from the places near by and after the Holy Mass nine children were baptized. The Indians of *Estrella* are becoming extinct. There are now 10 *palenques*, with 46 inhabitants. On the right bank of the *Estrella* are found *Bitey*, *Cacharva* (three houses), *Hobu*, *Moiñoc*, *Psarabata* and *Diruwa*. On the left bank *Mocurroy* (*jobo*) and *Surin* (*zapote* in front of *Moiñoc*).

We left *Cacharva* at one in the afternoon and we reached *Bitey* at a distance of about four hours. *Bitey* is a very unhealthy location. In 1883 there were four houses there, whose inhabitants all died of fever; now there is but a single house inhabited by an Indian recently come down from the headwaters of the river. On Sunday, January 5, after the Holy Mass 13 children were baptized. At 9 we left with the purpose of reaching *Talamanca* that day and celebrating there the Festival of the Kings, but it was impossible. From 9 till 11 we traversed the plains which extend between the River *Bitey* and the *Dlui*, and at 11 we reached the *Dlui*, having to cross the river some 17 times with much danger and a good deal of discomfort.

At 1 p. m. we came to the foot of the cordillera which divides the waters of the *Estrella* and its tributaries from the waters of the *Sirole*, a branch of the *Tiliri*. The ascent continued for an hour; once on the crest we followed along by the edge of the mountain. At 6 p. m. we already heard the noise of the waters of the *Sirole*, but we could not reach it on account

of the darkness of the night. Without losing any time we stretched out in the road to rest and pass the night, during which fortunately it did not rain. Today several of the Indians became sick during the crossing from the *Dluy*: we were all very tired; the tigers and peccaries terrified us also during the march.

On the 6th of January, the day of the Holy Kings (Epiphany) we set out very early, crossing the *Sirole* and at 8.30 we were at the house of a trader who had a cattle ranch there and a small store where he supplied the Indians of that vicinity. This was the first day that we had the sun all day; so we could dry our wet clothing which was already ragged. In the *Sirole* 7 children were baptized. On Tuesday, the 7th of January, we arrived at 11 in the morning at *Sipurio*. The Sr. Comandante and his Secretary, Señor Lyon, came out to meet us and we were entertained in the house of Señor Lyon.

In *Sipurio* we remained until Monday, the 13th of January. Near *Sipurio*, at a distance of 300 yards, is found the settlement of *San Bernardo*, which is made up of a barrack, some 4 houses that are vacant, which the Government ordered to be built to lodge colonists of the interior and some four or five stores or bars and nothing more. The inhabitants are a few whites, some creoles and the rest negroes and Indians. There is no marriage, but immorality and vice. The bad example given by the negro and creole women exercises a destructive influence upon the Indian women. In order to give an idea of the moral degradation to which these inhabitants have arrived, the following example will serve: One of the negro women is a native of the island of *San Andrés* and consequently a Catholic. His Worship told her in English that she should give up her abandoned life and adopt better habits, getting married. To this the negrees replied, laughing: "I get married: never. I am a woman and I need my man. Either one looks for me or I look for one; and if he don't suit me I leave him and look for another: that is my life and I won't do anything else." In this way most of them argue. The results of this bad example have been felt among the Indians. Several of the Indian women, for many years married, among them one married 31 years, have abandoned their husbands, seeking the free life of the negresses.

The Indians spend the greater part of what they earn in the purchase of alcoholic drinks. One thing that contributed a good deal to the demoralization of that region has been the arbitrary destruction of the church. In 1883 His Worship built in *Sipurio*, at his own expense a church, a curates house with three rooms and a large kitchen, so as to be able to cook for the Indians who came from long distances, two or three days journey. The Padre Don Manuel Hidalgo carried out this work during the year he remained in *Talamanca*. In this church were baptized about 700 adult Indians and about 70 couples were married: it was a place dear to the Indians. In 1886 the *Jefe Político* (political head) and *Comandante* of *Talamanca* determined to destroy these three buildings, alleging that they threatened to fall down and pretending to have received orders from the Capital, from the Minister of Government. Actually he did destroy everything and he built with the wood the house which serves for a barrack and a bar. This arbitrary proceeding, against which the Indians and several of the residents of the place protested, produced a very unfavorable impression; and when a short time after the destruction of the church he died at the mouth of the *Sixaola*, burned up with a violent fever, blood exuding from his whole body, they saw in that death a just punishment of God.

The stay, therefore, in *Talamanca* was, for His Worship, a source of bitterness and pain. But still there was consolation. The Indians of *Coén*, *Urén*, *Bribri*, *Lari*, came in large parties to hear the Holy Mass and the word of God, and their children were baptized and confirmed. In *Sipurio* 68 persons were baptized, 92 were confirmed and one marriage was performed. Twice the Holy Mass was said in one of the open houses of the Government, and the other days it was said in the house where Sr. Lyon lived.

If it is desired to civilize *Talamanca* and encourage settlers from the interior, no soldiers are needed, nor schoolmasters; before everything else two or three zealous missionaries are needed, like the ancient Franciscans, but their entrance is opposed by the tyrannical laws of a party that is called "Liberal," imposing their will and their hatred to a whole nation.

On Monday, January 13th, we departed from *Sipurio*, passing by *Tínsula* where the house of the Cacique Antonio is located. The River *Lari* presented some serious difficulties but at last we crossed it with the help of the Indians of *Tínsula*. On this day we arrived at *Paglchecha* (Cañas), which is found on the bank of the *Coén*. The *Comandante* accompanied us as far as *Paglchecha*. On Tuesday, the 14th, of January, we ascended along the right bank of the *Coén*. The storm began afresh. About 4 p. m. we reached *Ameguecha* (El Aguacate). On Wednesday, the 15th, we crossed in great danger the River *Sunghuityi*, and arrived at *Siguahu* (the house of the white man) where we had to cross the *Coén*. It was impossible to cross the river; its flooded waters would not permit our passage. Thursday, the 16th, we remained in *Sigua-hu*, losing the whole day in trying to find a place that seemed possible to cross the river. At one place, where the river divides in two branches, there was discovered a tree of large proportions (*soto caballo*). This served us to construct a bridge, passing great poles of 10 yards length from the top to the other side of the river, where there was a

bank but still in the water, on which we rested our poles, which

a village like those in the interior of *Costa Rica*. As a proof of the disposition in which they were found it is enough to refer to the fact that during the year previous, without waiting for the urging of the *Jefe Político* of *San Bernardo* they opened up a road fully 6 yards wide from *Suébata* to *Amoquecha*, two long days' journey. They made this road in order to export their cattle with greater ease, a thing which was very difficult by the old road from *Acabate*, on which the *Coén* must be crossed three times.

Monday, January 20, we left the last *palenque* of *Suébata*, to begin the passage of the great Main Cordillera. We went down to the *Coén*, which we crossed by a bridge made by the Indians, and on the other side were confronted by a high and almost perpendicular mountain. We ascended it in 5 hours, from 7 until 12.30. Along the most dangerous precipices the Indians had stakes fixed and poles fastened with reeds, which one could seize hold of. Once on the summit we were rather tired and we marched along the broken ground until we came to *Huépana* (*Sajinillo*), where we spent the night. The cold already began to trouble us very much.

Tuesday we continued going up and up, at times descending small hills until we arrived at the headwaters of the *Coén*.

On Wednesday we came to the headwaters of the *Lari*. There it was very cold.

Thursday, January 23, we started on our march very early in the morning. As it rained continuously and the cold was very severe, almost all of us became ill, some with a catarrh, others with fevers. At 10 we were at the highest point of the Cordillera, called by the Indians *Cuesa*. A strong wind was blowing which almost threw us to the ground. From *Cuesa* it descended continually to the plains of *Ujarrás*.

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Saturday, September 27th (of 1890) we left at 8 in the morning (from *Limón*) for *Talamanca*, in a little steam vessel of the Government. At 2 o'clock we reached in the afternoon *Old Harbour*, where we landed at the Portete. We stayed in the house of Sr. Don Horalien McNich.

Sunday, September 28, His Worship said the Holy Mass under some fine cocoanut trees on the shore of the Sea and preached.

Monday, the 29th and Tuesday, the 30th of September, we had to remain in Old Harbour, awaiting the horses which were to come from *Sipurio*. Finally on Wednesday, the 1st of October, we were able to get away from *Old Harbour* and go to *Cuavre*. This took three hours. In *Cuavre* we embarked in a canoe, at 5 in the evening, and rowing all the night, we arrived on the following day, Thursday, October 2nd, at 6.30 in the morning at *Sipurio*.

At *Sipurio* and in the settlement of *San Bernardo* things were found in the same condition as they were left in January of this year. Some persons had gone away, among others the negress of *San Andrés*, who expressed herself with so much disregard in January, when His Worship made some remark about her conduct. She was sick for some days with a boil inside her mouth and came very near dying. Now she has gone to the shore of the Sea. A new improvement which is found is the school, with a master and a mistress, both married. Both work very well. There are some 25 boys and 25 girls entered, but the attendance is less: we found 18 boys and 5 girls in the school. The Indians still show much dislike to the school, partly on account of the difficulties it has met with. As they live at considerable distances from the settlement of *San Bernardo*, the children cannot go back but once a week to their homes and it is almost impossible to feed them in *San Bernardo*. The only thing is for some provision to be made on the part of the Government to provide for the cost of their food. They informed His Worship that in August the Cacique Antonio had called from the mountains the *Usecra* with the purpose of conjuring the school and the master, so that he might go away as they did in 1883 with the Padre Don Manuel Hidalgo. On account of this His Worship went to *Tánsula*, to the dwelling of Antonio, to take him to task because he still kept his belief in wizards and had opposed the real progress of the region. Antonio and his people denied roundly the fact that the *Usecra* had come. With all the eyewitnesses who declared to the contrary, it seems certain. Therefore it was, that without heeding the denial of the Cacique, His Holiness made some very strong remarks to

him and to his people and they promised in the future not to oppose the schools and to send their children punctually.

Sunday, October 5, there were gathered about 200 Indians, from different parts to be present at the divine offices. The school house was suitably prepared with flowers and branches of trees. At 8 His Worship said the Holy Mass, and explained the Gospel of the day. At 11 the baptisms began of the children who had been born since January and some larger ones, in all 24. In the evening the Rosary was recited and His Worship preached. Generally on every day that we remained in *Talamanca* the Bishop preached daily twice: in the Mass in the morning and in the evening after the Holy Rosary. In the afternoon he explained the Holy Commandments.

Monday, October 6, some new ones came for baptism, 10.

On Tuesday His Worship prepared arrangements, so that there should be every Sunday and on feast days a religious service made up of various prayers, reading of the Gospel of the day and a sermon, and in the evening the Holy Rosary and reading from the work: "Light of True Catholics." He left a competent person to undertake these religious exercises.

Wednesday, October 8, we left Sipurio by the river, arrived at *Cuavre* and in the afternoon at *Old Harbour*.

Thursday, October 9, we left in the little steam vessel, *Portete*, but the Sea was so bad that we had to go back to the land.

Friday, October 10, we departed once more from the port and were able although with some difficulty to reach *Limón*.

Fifth Visit to Talamanca in 1892. Page 201.

In July and August a short visit to *Talamanca* in company of Buenaventura Corrales. The visit extended only to *Old Harbour* and *Sipurio*.

These agree with the originals to which we referred and for the purposes pursuant to law and at the request of the Supreme

Government we transcribe these presents, which we sign in the Episcopal Palace of *San José de Costa Rica* on the 31st day of the month of May, 1911.

JUAN GASPAR,
Bishop of *Costa Rica*.

Before me:

Moisés Ramírez, N. M.

There is a seal which reads:

*"Evangelizare Pauperibus Misere Me Dominus.
Fide et Pace."*

**Doc. 542 Reports of the Governor of Limón and of His Deputy in
Talamanca.**

LIMÓN, March 31, 1883.¹

I.

REPORT, which the undersigned Governor of the District of *Limón* renders to the Honorable Senor Secretary of State in the Department of Government, concerning the various branches of the Administration which has been under his charge during the constitutional period which began August 1, 1882, and which includes up to the 31st of the current month.

* * * * *

Talamanca, Estrella, Old Harbour, Cahuita, Banano and Bananito.

These jurisdictions include the extensive territory of *Talamanca*, the population of which amounts to some 1500 natives; *Río Estrella*, some 300, also natives; *Old Harbour* and *Cahuita*, some 100 inhabitants, the greater part of whom are negroes from the Antilles and from *Bocas del Toro*; and *Banano* and *Bananita*, about 100 inhabitants, generally of the aboriginal race.

The separate territory of *Talamanca* is governed, as has already been stated, by a *Jefe Político*, who is one of the natives, and by a Secretary and Director, who is a civilized and honorable

¹ National Archives of Costa Rica. Department of Government. Year 1883.

resident. Beside the primitive government of that jurisdiction, it is under the charge of a Justice of the Peace.

Blanco is the capital of the territory. There are the residences of the *Jefe Político* and Secretary, the church and the priest's house. A monthly mail places *Talamanca* and *Limón* in mutual communication.

The natives of the said settlements live scattered in the extensive woodlands of our District, in small groups called *Palenques*, toward the part South of the railway line as far as the borders of *Colombia*, and on the Southwest until inland they run into the territories belonging already to the interior provinces. These natives, as a whole, live in their own plantings and from the chase and fishing. They gather, though on a small scale, rubber and sarsaparilla, which they offer to traders in exchange for articles for the camp, some clothing and arms and tackle for hunting and fishing.

The inhabitants' dwellings are hardly sufficient for the needs of their life, which has very little aspiration, as may be understood from their little desire for labor and their habitual indolence. In *Talamanca* a curacy was established, but since September or October of the last year the priest left and has not been replaced. As for the rest, so far as regards the settlements of *Cahuita* and *Old Harbour*, made up of negroes, I will only say that they live by fishing and the gathering of rubber. * * *

It would be very desirable to proceed slowly to establish primary schools at some places where the number of the settlers is such as to require it. *Talamanca* of course requires it, notwithstanding the scattered or dispersed way in which its dwellers live, that a primary school be founded there. Besides the primary school in *Talamanca* another could be established of arts and crafts. Even though only a few children should go, I believe that such a training school would have great influence in the earlier civilization of these, our brothers, who have so much and more right that they should be taught than those who belong to the civilized peoples, surrounded with a whole line of aids and advantages, which society gives to us from our birth. * * *

Limón, March 31, 1883.

The Governor:

ALBERTO MOYA.

LIMÓN, May 12, 1883.

SEÑOR GOVERNOR OF THE DISTRICT:

Appointed by you to make an official visit to *Talamanca*, in your name and representation, I started for said territory on the 14th of the month of April last, at 10 p. m. in a small boat which was under contract to go as far as *Cahuíta*. There accompanied me: the Señor Presbítero Don Juan Díaz Albo, who represented the Curate of this District in spiritual matters, a companion of this Curate young Don José León Guevara, and a policeman.

About 3 a. m. on the 15th of the said month we landed at *Cahuíta*, and from there we sent the same day the note for the *Jefe Político* of *Talamanca*, in which we asked him for servants and animals in order to continue our march. Difficulties in *Talamanca* prevented sending the animals with the promptness desired, and already weary with waiting, after five days delay in *Cahuíta*, we hired there three poor beasts, equipped with the worst outfit, and on the 20th we started on the road, which, starting in a straight line from *Cahuíta*, and passing by "*Hun-crick*," goes until it terminates on the left bank of the River *Sixola*, in front of a holding called "*Sibube*" ("the house of God," in *Talamanca* language).

This same day, the 20th, that we left *Cahuíta*, we could have reached *Sibube*, but this road is little used and no improvement had been made in it of any kind since it was opened, so that in parts it was overgrown to such an extent that there were no signs of a road. At one place, about a league beyond *Hun-crick*, we met such an obstacle and we were compelled to go back and lose a league in search of a guide, as no one of the party was acquainted with this road. Reaching *Hun-crick* we found that, notwithstanding our urging, begging and offers of money that we made to the two Indians and the two boys that were there, it was not possible to get any of them to go and show us the road that same day, and we could only get them to consent that they would do so the following one, by means of good pay, and for that reason we had to remain there from one o'clock in the afternoon of that day.

We started early on the 21st and about twelve that day we arrived at *Sibube*, having found the road generally good, for the

bad places which we noted consisted in great trees which had fallen over the road and in intervals, like that which had interrupted our march on the 20th, as the road has been interrupted by thickets and overgrown with brush and trees, where the traveller must go provided with *machetes* and axes, for without them he runs the risk of losing himself and tearing his clothing and flesh. I believe if this road was constantly kept clean the delays and troubles we had would be avoided. The grades generally are short and easy.

On our arrival at *Sibube* we learned that the day before the animals and servants had passed down by there going to meet us, and that they had gone by the way of *Cuabre*, to reach *Old Harbour*, for which place the *Jefe Político* thought we had started. On that same day, the 21st, in the evening, they did indeed arrive there, the animals and the servants who had gone to *Old Harbour*; and there also came two boats.

Our trip being favored with these two kinds of transportation, we resolved to leave *Sibube* on the following day, in the morning, in the direction of *Talamanca*, some going by the river in boats and others on horseback, which trip ended on that same day, the 22nd, in the evening, at *Talamanca*, where we lodged in the house of the Secretary and Director of the *Jefe Político*, Señor Don H. Lyon, who received us and waited upon us with the greatest kindness and generosity from the time we arrived until our return.

I have allowed myself to make this detailed account of our trip going to *Talamanca*, because there were in it difficulties, which meant an increase of expense, delays and slight annoyances, which we suffered, which it is well the Governor should know, for his better understanding respecting the continuance of the commission in *Talamanca*.

During our stay in *Talamanca*, the subscriber had occasion to visit the principal places in the neighborhood. He was in the residence of the *Jefe Político* (the ancient royal residence of the native Kings), which place is called "*Túnsula*," on the bank of the *Lare*. I visited some of the *palenques* at the headwaters of the *Urén*; I was in *Sureca*, which is at the point where the Rivers *Lare* and *Coén* join the *Telire*, from which point going

down-stream these united rivers form the *Sixola*, the length of which down to the outlet into the sea takes a boat two days to descend, more or less.

In passing I saw the cacao plantation which the Ex-Governor Don Juan Quirós in 1880 directed to be established there, so that its product should be applied for the expenses of the most urgent need in the territory. This plantation covers an extent of twenty *manzanas*, in which there are planted 3,000 cacao trees, which are still in a stage of development. In the last year there were planted around them a barrier of lemon trees, with the purpose of protecting the said plantation from animals. This plantation has in part been made with the personal labor of the Indians and the rest with the funds of the territory.

The local Government of the jurisdiction only owns in the way of buildings, one house of straw, having walls and flooring of the tops of the palm, which is quite a large building, in which is the calaboose or jail, where there is a fine stocks, and in one large and spacious room, that may serve as an office, barracks and for other uses, is the small equipment which consists of some five guns. I proceeded to make a visit to the archives of the office of the *Jefatura* and I found all in good order. In the office of the Treasury I found similar order in the accounts, noting both the receipts and the disbursements. The Treasurer, who is the same Secretary and Director, has proceeded in everything in conformity with governmental provisions, which were submitted to me.

The balance of the accounts for the year 1882 was verified (which I have presented to you), and by it will be seen that the receipts of funds in said year did not balance the expenses, leaving the small deficit of \$4.37. *Talamanca*, as the Governor knows very well, is specially administered and entirely different to what is accustomed in the other parts of the country. This irregularity, allowed and sanctioned, is in consequence of the class of inhabitants, of the distance from the centre of civilization, of the general state of poverty and the backwardness of its residents, who are almost in their primitive condition, keeping yet their own language and many of their old beliefs and traditions, much time being yet required before *Talamanca* can admit innovations and reforms in its method of existence. Before every-

thing it is necessary to insist upon bringing in education, and beginning this with the primary school.

It is an arduous task to uproot in *Talamanca* in a moment its way of life, which it has followed generation after generation; to destroy its sincere although erroneous beliefs represented in its *Usécara* and in its *Sukias*, stimulating the noble ideas of labor and a reasonable ambition concerning the advantages offered to man by a civilized life; but it will be an easy, practicable and noble task to prepare the new generation which is now growing up in *Talamanca*, by means of a primary school. Evangelical effort and all teaching in the different forms of human sentiment will be able to progress with more vigor and in an effective manner. As it is not possible without mathematics, to know and appreciate the value of the digits, neither can civilization be undertaken by a people without beginning, before everything else, to learn the A. B. C., which is the beginning of all civilization. Now, wherever it is wanted, the instruction of the masses plays the leading part. When the child is prepared in the school, all knowledge, moral and material, which is sought to instill, can be better acquired, and well meant efforts will not be fruitless because the soil is prepared.

The present Secretary and Director of the *Jefe Político* is Don Juan H. Lyon, now grown old and comparatively poor, if the 26 years are considered which he has lived there, devoting himself to giving to *Talamanca* his share of light and knowledge, both as an employee and as a private individual. Many times Mr. Lyon has been exposed to losing his life, that life which he has so generously and in such a self-sacrificing manner devoted to *Talamanca*, isolating himself so to speak, from the pleasures of civilized life, only because this place was cherished in his affections. Although he appears and has appeared as Secretary, of the *Jefe Político*, Mr. Lyon has been and is everything there, and the Government knows it well. Rather than "Second Conqueror of *Talamanca*," a title that we have seen he uses, it would be more becoming the honorable one of "Protector of the Tribes of *Talamanca*." The advantages that he has obtained from the Indians are very few, if we except the affection and respect which they show, but they owe to him many good things which they have obtained and of which perhaps they are ignorant.

To bring out the Indians from the ignorance in which they live in their forests and start them upon the road to a civilized life, should be the constant care of the Government. The Indians have no other burdens placed upon them in *Talamanca* now than the following: the personal subsidiary work for the benefit of their own roads; cleaning the cacao plantation, and a tax of ten which is collected every three months and which is only paid by those who are fully able. On the other hand nothing is required of them for licenses to gather rubber or sarsaparilla, nor are they subject to the imposts which are paid by the subjects of the other nations who work there.

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The National Treasury now pays in *Talamanca* monthly only the sum of \$50, which is divided, half as salary of the *Jefe* and the other half as salary of the Secretary and Director. As police are needed there to attend to the good order of its scattered inhabitants, the *Jefe Político* in his own residence and the Secretary in his, each maintain four Indians regularly who are ready to look after any disorder. The houses of these two employees are separated from each other by something more than a league.

In the accounts of the Treasurer for the past year there was only charged the sum of \$20 for food for the four policemen who serve under the orders of the Secretary, that is to say, at the rate of \$5 for food annually to each policeman. These four policemen should be paid from the National Treasury, giving them a reasonable salary.

There is no lack of disturbances in *Talamanca*, especially among the Jamaican negro rubber-gatherers, who are there, and it is necessary for the authorities to always have at hand some assistance, and this can not be had good and efficient unless it is paid for. With the freedom of *Talamanca*, the introduction of liquors became general, and this has been shown to be entirely prejudicial, for the offences and crimes which have for some time been committed in this region are committed in consequence of the liquor taken in excess. Besides the people leave their work, they get into debt and in the end for these reasons there are many troubles. If the vice of liquor drinking is so notably pernicious in civilized communities, what will it be in the midst of an ignorant people it is sought to civilize?

This caused me to decide upon the regulation No. 1, suspending from the 15th day of this current month the sale of alcoholic liquors. The irregularities of the rubber-gatherers in their arrangements with those who protect them, giving them provisions, etc., for the gathering of rubber, decided me to issue regulations No. 2. Both regulations are respectfully submitted for your approval, and if they are approved I beg you to duly forward them to the *Jefe Político* of *Talamanca* in order that they may go into effect.

I will not close this long report without saying to you that the people of *Talamanca*, although ignorant, gives some assurances of its patriotism, its affection and its adhesion to the present Supreme Government, it is a well-meaning people and in its way it devotes itself to its occupations.

The sanitary condition which I noted during my visit is generally good, although I observed many cases of syphilis visible in men and in women and also ulcers in the legs. I do not know the cause of this disease, but I am inclined to believe that there are various reasons for it, among others bad food, the use of salt meats and water they take which is impregnated with the juice of the sarsaparilla, which is abundant in these Cordilleras or mountains.

Separately, and in a detailed form, I send you the accounts of the expenses, incurred by this Commission, the total of which amounts to \$128, which I hope will receive your approval and that you will direct their payment, the whole of said sum being due.

With the greatest consideration, I have the honor to subscribe myself, Señor Governor, your obedient servant,

P SEMPER.

Report of the Governor of Limón.

Doc. 543

No. 781.

Hon. Señor Sec. of State,
in the Department of Government;
Limón, June 10, 1884.

In consequence of my data concerning the sad situation of the Indians of *Talamanca*, Your Honor, justly concerned and desirous of doing away with it, hastened to tell me that I should

state in what manner the departure from said territory might be secured of the bandits who have been barbarously treating the innocent natives. The moment has already come for considering the humanitarian desires of Your Honor, and I will state the matter:

Don Temístocles Peñaranda, a very intelligent man, honest, of upright character and the owner of a fortune that is comparatively large for *Talamanca*, since he owns there more than \$15,000, is the person with whom I indicated to Your Honor that I hoped to speak, in order to be able to tell you afterwards the measures that ought to be taken for the purpose of surely obtaining the end desired, without any noise or in any way compromising our country, the evil-doers being foreigners. Señor Peñaranda maintains close relations, both with the *Jefe Político* as well as with his Secretary director, Mr. Lyon. He understands perfectly and is sorry for the bad situation of the latter, which could not be worse. He says that a private person has more power there than the *Jefe Político* and his Secretary, since the latter especially the evil-doers insult and threaten with impunity, without there being any means of making their authority respected. For this reason the bandits are those that predominate and they do not refrain from their abuses and barbarities committed against the natives.

Senor Peñaranda, notwithstanding this, believes that for the tranquillity of the settlements of *Talamanca* it is indispensable to keep the present *Jefe Político* in his present position, since he is much liked and respected by those of his race, as well as his Secretary, who is no less so. He shows to me that the only way of getting rid of those evil-doers in that place is by taking a well-armed squad, composed of eight soldiers and an officer. It is not necessary to alarm them but to take them gradually, which is not very difficult as they are all vicious and frequently go out to the settlements and engaging in disorder, so that they can be seized two by two and sent to *Limón* to be disposed of there, under the instruction of the Supreme Government, without prejudice to proceeding against each other by proper indictment for his wrongful acts. In this quiet way it could be brought about that not a single one should remain in that locality, and that

within a period of two months he believed the territory would be purged of such a bad element.

Senor Peñaranda knows everybody in *Talamanca*, better than any one else, for he has lived there many years and he assures me that any other means that may be employed for the purpose will be entirely useless.

Senor Peñaranda is a native of *Colombia*; but he has great affection for *Costa Rica* like any son of the country. *Costa Rica* is now for him almost his real fatherland; he desires with earnestness its prosperity, and as an honorable man he looks for its peace and tranquillity, even in those distant regions; and generous and a friend of order, as he really is, he respectfully offers his services, through me, to the Supreme Government. He says that he desires to perform for his adopted country the important good work of getting rid of those robbers; that for that purpose the Government may appoint him an Agent of Police in *Talamanca*, respecting always the superiority of the *Jefe Político*, or give to him the character that it deems desirable; with the notice that he does not wish any remuneration whatever for his services, which he will give with very great willingness, for such time only as it may be needed to get rid of these evil-doers, and with which precise object the troop shall go at his orders.

Finally, he also states that in order not to risk the health of the soldiers from the interior, as they are so strange to these coasts, he can arrange to secure them in *Matina* and in *Limón*, Your Honor only forwarding the nine arms with their corresponding outfit which, he will return after having carried out his commission.

Señor Peñaranda returns to *Talamanca* in the last days of the present month. It is desirable, if the Government accepts the idea proposed, and does not find any objection to it, it should be prepared to send him his appointment and promptly forward the arms, so that there may be no delay.

Having thus satisfied the wishes of Your Honor, I take this opportunity to subscribe myself, with all consideration, your obedient servant,

BALVANERO VARGAS.

Doc. 544 The Governor of Limón to the Minister of Government.

To the Honorable Señor Secretary of
State, in the Department of Government.

Limón, June 24, 1884.

With four full folios, I have the honor to return to Your Honor the document relating to a complaint of various residents against the Alcalde of *Buenos Aires in Bizeita*.

With the greatest consideration, I subscribe myself your obedient servant,

BALVANERO VARGAS.

*To the Most Illustrious and Most Reverend Señor Bishop of the
Republic of Costa Rica.*

SAN PEDRO DE BUENOS AIRES, April 29, 1884.

ILLUSTRIOS SEÑOR:

We, the undersigned, of full age, farmers and natives of *Viceita* and residents of this settlement, with all respect, submit to your illustrious Lordship, that it is no longer possible to endure the hostility of the head of this settlement for notwithstanding your many recommendations so that he should not interfere with us when you reduced us to Christianity, and relying upon his observance of your mandate, we have settled here, but we did not believe that he would require of us things that were not incumbent upon us; therefore much to our sorrow we call the attention of your Lordship to what happens in this locality.

Senor Don Pedro Calderón being in authority he has compelled us to work in his plantation without just payment, and when he has wanted some urgent thing, which we showed him we were unable to do, he has threatened us with prison if we did not obey him, and this happened each month.

Now, in former days he cited us to appear for a general meeting for its object the discussion of public matters and purchase of hardware for public works. Some appeared, but others were not found in their houses and this was sufficient to order them arrested and to require them to pay a fine of three pesos and a half to Juan de la Cruz Uva and Antonio Hidalgo, which fine we were able to meet by sacrifices, at the same time Señor Cal-

derón stated that if we did not contribute something for the purchase of said hardware we should be deprived of the right to be buried in the cemetery. Will it be just to compel us to do things that we cannot do, for your Illustrious Lordship knows how poor we are, and how with labor we meet the necessities of our families, and if this is so how shall we be able to pay fines and jail fees, and more than all requiring us to appear at meetings that we do not understand about nor are prepared for, and are we to believe that the *Alcalde* has the power to exclude us from burial in the sacred ground? All this occurs and many other things that we refrain from mentioning to you.

To your Illustrious Lordship we pray, that you will do what is in your power to better our condition, for otherwise we shall absolutely be compelled to abandon our properties and withdraw to our ancient homes; all these are irreparable losses for us, and it is only by an arbitrary authority, we beg anew that Your Lordship may have compassion upon us and at the same time we swear to you not to do any malicious act.

For Señores Agustín Morales, Antonio Hidalgo, Juan Bautist Hernández, Pedro Zúñiga, Mengor Morales and Juan de la Cruz Uva, who can not sign, the one who appears, signs and accrediting the reasons stated:

FRUCTOSO JIMÉNEZ.

At the request of Señores Fidel Villanueva, Sebastián Morales, Tomás Villanueva, José Ma. Navas, José Ma. Zúñiga and Jesús Elizondo, not knowing how to sign, it is signed by the one who appears,

JOSÉ FIGUEROA.

No. 133.

SAN JOSÉ, May 12, 1884.

HONORABLE SEÑOR:

It not being within the power of the Ecclesiastical Authority to hear and decide upon the complaints which various recently baptized Indians of *Bizaita* present against the Civil Authority of *Buenos Aires*, I have the honor of submitting to you the annexed memorial, begging that you will bring it to the knowledge of His Excellency the General President, to the end that the facts being ascertained, he may be pleased to take such protective action as

shall be best to keep the said Indians in the new faith which they have embraced and so that they shall persevere in the conservation of the civilized life to which that faith calls them.

With assurances of the most distinguished consideration I subscribe myself your humble and obedient servant and Chaplain.

The Delegate to the Illustrious and Reverend Señor Bishop:
 JOSÉ ZAMORA, Secretary.

To the Honorable Señor Minister of Government,
 Licenciado Don Bernardo Soto.

NATIONAL PALACE, SAN JOSÉ, May 12, 1884.

Pass this despatch and the annexed communication to the Governor of the District of *Limón*, in order that he may report as quickly as possible.

Soto.

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF LIMÓN:

May 24, 1884.

This Government lacking the necessary data to comply with what is required in the foregoing, which data can be obtained with greater ease by the *Jefe Político* of *Talamanca*, since he is in the nearest place to the settlement of *Bizeita*,—the enclosed papers are forwarded to your office, in order that the report desired be made as quickly as possible, preparing it in a clear and circumstantial form, and at the same time returning all the papers.

BALVANERO VARGAS.

JEFATURA POLITICA DE TALAMACA.

June 6, 1884.

I received the present despatch at 4 p. m. on the above date and this office does not find in its jurisdiction any person who can state anything against the said Señor *Alcalde* of *Buenos Aires*, but on the contrary the persons who have previously come here

from that place, both the Indians as well as some Spaniards, have always spoken very well of the said gentleman and the said place of *Buenos Aires* is distant from this territory eight days by road, and there is very little communication between the two jurisdictions;—this being all the report that this office is able to make to your Superior Authority.

Remaining of the Señor Governor, the very obedient servant.

ANTONIO ZALDAÑA.

JUAN H. LYON.

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF LIMÓN,

June 24, 1884.

Received these papers in the morning of this day; let them be brought to the knowledge of the Honorable Señor Secretary of State in the Department of the Interior.

BALVANERO VARGAS.

Don Federico Fernández to the Minister of Government.

Doc. 545

To the Honorable Señor Minister of Government,

SAN JOSÉ, June 30, 1884.

SEÑOR:

Having orders from H. E. the President of the Republic to make an expedition to *Talamanca*, and my health being almost entirely restored, I am ready for that purpose, so that if Your Honor deems it best I will depart on Friday next, having to stop one day on the plantation of *Cairo*, and continuing to *Limón* in the following train.

As Your Honor has already been pleased to indicate to me what is necessary to be known for the purpose, permit me to make the following suggestions:—

1. Give an order to the Governor of *Limón*, to have ready 8 or 10 soldiers and two corporals, all men suitable for those climates and with munitions sufficient for their outfit. Carry ten extra guns, of the old style, to arm Indians who may be able to aid the authorities against the evil-doers who infest those regions.

2. Also give an order that a vessel be ready, well manned, to carry the expedition, from *Limón* to *Old Harbour*, and two others from *Cuabre* to *Sipurio*.

3. Issue an order for a provision of food and furnishing aid to the men during the stay in *Talamanca*.

4. Advance some funds for the expense of the voyage, railroad fares, etc.

5. Perhaps it would be well that I should be accompanied by an officer of confidence in case I should become ill.

6. That the instructions be issued to me which may be deemed opportune and setting out in detail my powers.

7. That orders be given to provide what is necessary (boats, etc.) for the return.

8. If possible let there be provided a small tent, as it may be necessary to sleep some nights outdoors and in those places at this season it rains a great deal.

I have the honor to subscribe myself your obedient servant,

FEDERICO FERNÁNDEZ.

Doc. 546

Report of General Don Federico Fernández.

To the Honorable Señor Minister of the Government and War:

SAN JOSÉ, August 21, 1884.

SEÑOR:

In compliance with the order received, I left this Capital for *Talamanca* on the fourth day of last month, but was unable to leave *Limón* until the eleventh because there was a delay in the equipment, so that I did not arrive in that city until the tenth. I took with me a lieutenant, two corporals and eight soldiers.

The armament consisted in ten Remington rifles and eight percussion guns, for reinforcement or to arm Indians, in case it should be needed, munitions, straps, etc.

On the 14th I reached the Valley of *Cuén* and located myself in the place called *Sipurio*, the chief town of the Government of *Talamanca*. I began at once to obtain the information needed for the execution of my commission, and I learned that the principal persons engaged in the disorders had fled and placed them-

selves in safety in the territory that is in litigation with *Colombia*. I was told that among the Jamaicans who were there some had committed offenses, though not serious.

The season was very bad, for it was a long rainy spell. The *Jefe Político* of *Talamanca* was at the time engaged in a very serious matter to the Indians; celebrating the funeral services of three individuals of his family, a ceremony which continued for twenty days and nights, only stopping for two hours. The *Jefe Político* of *Talamanca*, according to the religious beliefs of the Indians can not leave the place of the function without it causing displeasure to the souls of the deceased whose obsequies are being celebrated. It was necessary that the *Jefe Político* should authorize with his presence the inquests that were being held, and it was necessary to wait.

The acts which are complained of in *Talamanca* are two or three attempts at robbing, which were prevented, and one which was committed in the store of Henry Ellis; various insults and even infringements of Authority committed by Chiricanian rubber-gatherers, and a Jamaican negro one night entered the house of an Indian looking in the dark for an Indian woman, but he was tied up and taken to the person in Authority. Besides previously there were several assassinations committed by Colombians of which followed the corresponding summaries.

Time passed and I suffered a second relapse of the fever. I did not consider it necessary that all the force I had taken to *Talamanca* should stay there, to which I was absolutely compelled to provide food, which is very expensive there. I resolved, therefor, to go back to *Limón* and take with me to be discharged a corporal and four soldiers, and I did so;—that the inquests should be continued respecting the acts mentioned, and that those who were implicated should be forwarded to *Limón* for trial.

I also provided that if those who had fled should return they should be seized and forwarded to *Limón*, together with the corresponding inquest.

I also provided that the introduction of liquor should not be permitted, nor the entry into the interior of persons with the pretext of gathering rubber, or anything else, except those known to be honest or those who should have a passport from the Governor of *Limón*.

In *Limón* I left the excess of the arms and equipment which I brought back from *Talamanca*. I came to make report as quickly as possible; but events beyond my will have not allowed me to do so until now. I propose separately to make a report giving my observations respecting social conditions in *Talamanca*.

I trust that Your Honor will accept the expression of my respect and consideration.

FEDERICO FERNÁNDEZ.

Doc. 547

Report of the Governor of Limón.

No. 564.

LIMÓN, March 31, 1885.

To the Hon. Señor Sec. of State in the Departments of Government and Police:

Referring to the important circulars, Nos. 9 and 10, of February 19th last, I have the honor to make the reports requested of me, in the following order:

Talamanca.

The expedition which the Supreme Government saw proper to send to that territory, at the beginning of the present year, while it did not produce all the good results which were hoped for, did however accomplish its main object. It was enough for the expedition to approach, when the evil-doers who had been making trouble for the natives fled from *Talamanca* and made their way into *Colombia*. Some of the least of these offenders have since come back, but they have changed their habits of vandalism, though it may only be on the surface. Still it would be well to afford some assurance, not only to the natives but the various honest people who live in that remote jurisdiction, by establishing a small police guard, which, without being burdensome for the National Treasury, would secure the object desired, and also be a help to the political authority, now lacking that element so needful for the purposes of its institution and playing there an absolutely useless and ridiculous part.

This could be secured by fixing a license for the four shops now existing, the amount of which, together with the fines, etc., would produce a sum sufficient for the monthly payment of the police, and even to establish a postal service.

Permit me, therefore, to bring this idea to the attention of Your Honor, which, if it merits your high approval, I think would be desirable and could be further extended. The Indians of *Talamanca* are not now in the backward condition in which they formerly were. They are in frequent communication with civilized people. They like to dress well: many of them wear cloth pantaloons and woven sashes, which they have secured at the high price of \$15. They like to ride on horse-back; some of them have their own horses and good saddles. Their principal industries are getting out sarsaparilla and the gathering of rubber. They are very fond of raising fowls, pigs and cattle. In that territory there are more than thirty natives who each own from fifteen to forty head of cattle.

These facts show, therefore, that these natives are no longer in a condition to go to them with ribbons and other presents of that sort. It is needful that some effort be made to reach them in some positive manner, with something that they will value, and more especially for the country that there should be some satisfactory primary instruction. No one can doubt that this is the best way to get them started upon a life of civilization and progress and so that they may later be really useful. It will not cost a great deal for the two things which I have respectfully suggested. If they were adopted it seems to me that a good step will have been taken toward securing the welfare of those innocent beings.

Mr. Minister, this ends my present report, and I trust that it may in some way be useful in the important deliberations of the high officials who watch over the development of our Country.

I subscribe myself, Your Honor's very obedient and respectful servant,

BALVANERO VARGAS.

Doc. 548 Don Juan H. Lyon to the Minister of Government.

No. 220.

TALAMANCA, December 7, 1885.

To the Hon. Señor Minister of the Republic of *Costa Rica*:
San José.

I take pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of your much esteemed letter, dated the 9th of the month last past, the contents of which I have read with the greatest attention, being much gratified at the high consideration which my Government has shown toward myself, an employee of many years and one who has always worked with the most earnest interest on behalf of my Government.

It is especially necessary that I inform Your Hon. Señor Minister that I have been the Second Conqueror of *Talamanca* and His Excellency the ex-President of the Republic, Don Próspero Fernández, having granted to me the rank of Lieutenant Colonel as a token of my sincere services rendered to my Government, permit me to state to Your Hon. Señor Minister that the Government can rely upon me, that I will use all my moral and physical strength to bring these tribes of Indians to the true light of Christianity, out of the benighted condition in which they are still found as regards civilization, and with the more hopes than ever now that the Supreme Government has been disposed to turn its serious attention to this territory, in order to afford it the means of successfully developing its civilization and making progress in this district which has always been considered a lost treasury.

Permit me also to inform Your Hon. Señor Minister that I am at the present time a person of years, with a family by my side to protect, having passed the best of my youth in this desert where I have been for thirty years, and I beg my Government that it may always keep me in the high consideration which it has ever shown toward me and do whatever is possible on my account, not allowing anyone else to get the credit for my labor and merit, for with thousands of wearisome steps have I withstood dangers from these savages in order to attain the satisfaction of entitling myself the Second Conqueror, without having a soldier at my side, nor having fired a shot. Everything depended

upon my prudent management and my moral strength, and now there is nothing left me but the hopes of passing the rest of my life here with the help of my Government in improving my present circumstances, and I leave everything to its esteemed consideration.

I regret exceedingly the occurrences which took place recently in the matter of Antonio, but so it is in this world, and there is nothing else to expect, but the protection of the Supreme Being and to have on our side a Government of which I have the honor to state that its aspirations and sympathies are for peace, protection and progress of its Costarican children and the aggrandisement of its territories.

Antonio came back without any news; I have had an interview with him upon two occasions; he arrived somewhat proud of the journey, but there has not been anything new up to date and I am proceeding with my administration very prudently and the garrison enjoys good health but is without provisions. However on this date I have duly informed the Governor of *Limón* of it, and the Hon. Señor Minister will pardon me for having to use the margin of this note to say all that is needful, subscribing myself with the greatest consideration,

Your very humble and obedient servant,

JUAN H. LYON.

Report of the Governor of Limón.

Doc. 549

No. 747.

December 12, 1885.

To the Hon. Señor Sec. of State, in the Department of Government:

I have the honor to bring to your attention the documents herewith, which were forwarded to me from *Talamanca*.

On this occasion permit me to respectfully make a suggestion to you. It seems to me that it is no longer necessary to maintain in that territory the garrison which exists there. I think that now the person alone of the *Comandante* who has been expected to govern is more than sufficient to look after any disorder that may arise.

I have no salaries whatever here for the said garrison. I have delayed the mail so as to forward them when received, and also with the object of sending the order to withdraw the garrison, if you see fit to so provide.

With the greatest consideration, I subscribe myself Your Honor's most cordial servant.

BALVANERO VARGAS.

Doc. 550 Reports of the Political Chiefs of Talamanca and the Colony of San Bernardo in the Same Territory.

No. 222.

TALAMANCA, January 1, 1886.¹

Señor Governor of the District of *Limón*.

I take pleasure in addressing you for the first time and advising you of my safe arrival in this territory, after having passed some unpleasant times on the river and on the road, being places where they do not yet have the comforts that are met with in other parts of the Republic.

On the 23rd of the past month I reached the post of Señor Don Juan H. Lyon and on the same date Señor Lyon placed at my disposal a large house all arranged for the service of the Barracks, where I located the garrison and established the Government in due military form, having also found all previous matters in this territory in peace and quiet and in a short time I understood the most prudent course to carry on this place as I had found it without anything new.

It is proper now for me to state that the sale of liquor ought not to be permitted in this territory, as long as this authority is carrying out the wishes the Supreme Government has for its progress, as it may be said that the greater number of the inhabitants of this territory are Indians, and the number is considerable, and notwithstanding there is a respectable garrison still the Indians continue there their demoralized life and do not care to work and assist the progress of the country; and the colonists who go into the interior to locate themselves find many

¹ National Archives of Costa Rica. Secretaryship of Government. Year 1886. Bundle 6.

impediments towards doing anything, and the authorities will always have to be imposing punishments to administer justice, which will be a rather difficult matter at the beginning of this newly established Government.

Señor Antonio Zaldaña has presented himself with a committee of Indians, making a visit to this office and paying many compliments and asking orders to assist in what the Government may desire, and considering the goodwill he has shown it was not deemed prudent at the moment to communicate to him anything concerning his dismissal from his position, keeping him favorable towards the Government and not rousing feelings of anger and resentment which might in underhand ways work against the Government, interfering against governmental provisions, of which the effect might at once be destroyed as he remains in the territory, while on the other hand the mode I have taken assures present peace and quiet in the settlement, while the works that may be begun in this territory are continued, so that it is only by caprice that he could stir up discontent among the Indians, in which case I will inform you at once in order that the Supreme Government may take the necessary measures; and I hope that this action which is well considered may meet your approval.

Please find enclosed the account of expenses for the transportation of the provisions for the garrison from *Old Harbour* to here, advising your office that the river boatmen, from the Port of *Cuabre* to here took also cargo from *Old Harbour* to *Cuabre* and the rest were only occupied in loading for the same distance and their trip by land to return to this territory,—begging that you will send the money as soon as possible in order to satisfy the Indians so that they will be willing on the next occasion, which is sure to occur when something comes up in this territory.

I advise you that on the 28th of last month Sergeant Julián Berrocal was buried, he having arrived here with a very high fever, accompanied with vomiting. He was treated with all the necessary medicines, but his cure was in vain; and also another soldier, Julián Molina, who has been very ill and is in a serious condition. Be pleased to provide if it can be done another sol-

dier in the place of the one that died, so that the garrison may be complete for anything that may come up.

The payment for the mail from here to *Old Harbour* is four pesos and it is included in the same account of expenses incurred in transportation of the provisions.

Be good enough to forward to me the valise which was left in the office of Government last month.

I subscribe myself your very obedient servant.

L. ZAMORA.

JUAN H. LYON, Sec.

TALAMANCA, March 1, 1886.

Honorable Señor Minister of Government:

San José.

On this date with all respect I forward to you the account of expenses incurred by this office, as appears in the sheet, to the end of last month, and beg the Minister to be pleased to remit the amount thereof as soon as possible in order to settle with the commercial creditors. The Minister will understand that the reason why the account was not sent to the Governor of *Limón* was because I knew the Minister would attend to it with attention and without loss of time, as I am without money at this time and cannot discharge the account, and also because I prefer to address the Ministry directly in matters of this character.

I omit at this time to remit the Budget of the salaries of the garrison, as the soldiers prefer that when I go to the Capital that I shall bring their salaries.

Regarding the state of this territory, at present it enjoys and it has enjoyed since my arrival good order and tranquillity and I venture to hope that the desires of the Supreme Government for the progress of *Talamanca* may be fulfilled, little by little, with the prudent measures which have been adopted.

I subscribe myself, of the Minister, with great consideration his obedient servant,

L. ZAMORA.

JUAN H. LYON, Sec.

SAN BERNARDO, May 31, 1886.

No. 245.

To the Governor of the District of *Limón*:

The *Comandante* and *Jefe Político* who subscribes this, being desirous that the Supreme Government should be advised of the progress made in this military Colony of *Talamanca* during the months that he has been staying therein, proceeds to make the following Report:

On my arrival here I carefully examined the territory, finding it very fertile lands, immense plains, good water, abundant and splendid woods and a climate that is healthful and delightful; and the most suitable point to establish the Colony at "*Cipurio*," not only on account of its good water but its extensive prairies and good air. I began at once the laying out of the settlement, placing the Plaza in front of the building occupied as a Barracks, and giving it the name of "Plaza of San Bernardo."

At the point mentioned there are three *manzanas* of cleared land, and four that have been cleared by the soldiers of this garrison to complete the Plaza and squares. Of this I have fenced two, and cultivated with maize, rice, beans and green vegetables, leaving the corresponding streets sixteen *varas* (Spanish yards) wide. There have been constructed on the principal street and near to the Barracks five houses, belonging to Don Ramón Hernández, the first; to Mr. Hureci McNish, the second; to Don Vicente Quiñones the third; to Don Leopoldo Selles, the fourth; and the fifth to Don Perfecto Moscoso; and I expect that within a short time more will be built.

I have been teaching the Indians to work with *machetes*, such as are used in the interior; and I have given them to cultivate, corn, rice and beans, explaining the method of planting them, which has been done. With the help of Indians the road which leads from here to Port of *Oljaba* has been cleaned up, putting the bridges which were indispensable over the ravines. In this distance there are encountered two hills, that of *Curubarío* and that of *Coabre*, which although they present some difficulties have been cut with narrow winding paths so that animals can pass. The neighboring roads have been cleaned, that from here to *Urén*, about one league, that from *Túnsula* to *Quén* of two leagues, which leads to *Lari*, about one; and that of *Sureca*,

about one and a quarter. Two communal plaintain groves have been cleaned up, one about a mile distant from this settlement, of some thirty *manzanas*, and the other of *Coabre*, of eight.

The Indians are very contented, devoting themselves to labor, since I have shown them the benefit to be derived therefrom. Some families sought to move to *Bocas del Toro*, but now that they see that things are going better they have changed their minds and given up their purpose. I see the necessity of the emigration of families from the interior, not only for the early progress of the Colony, but in order to utilize these beautiful and virgin lands; and a schoolmaster is also indispensable for the civilization of the youth.

In my humble judgment it would be a good thing for the Supreme Government to decree the free entry of foreign merchandise and that from the Country into this Colony, in order to as far as possible broaden and protect commerce; and thus the Indians would be able to make their purchases at moderate prices.

Two boats are needed for the business on the river; one large one to carry families and provisions from *Coabre* here; and another small one to carry the mail. The garrison is in the best of health and up to the present there is no news of any kind.

Hoping that you will read my little report with pleasure, I am glad to subscribe myself, Señor Governor, your most obedient servant,

RAMÓN HERNÁNDEZ C.

SAN BERNARDO, September 30, 1886.¹

To the Governor of the District of *Limón*:

SAN BERNARDO, September 30, 1886.

The *Comandant* and *Jefe Político* who subscribes this desiring that the Supreme Government shall be informed of the progress made in this military Colony of *Talamanca* during the months of August and September of the present year, proceeds to make the following report:

Seeing the need that the Supreme Government had for a house for a barracks and that it had to pay the sum of Twenty pesos (\$20.00) monthly for rent, I arranged to make a building for a barracks with the labor of the soldiers that now occupy it and

¹ *Supra*. Bundle 8.

stop the rent. This building or barracks will be sixteen varas long by eight wide, with a corridor eight feet wide, with three rooms,—one for a barracks, one other for a jail, and the other for an office, and I have expended for material the sum of One hundred and fifty pesos (\$150.00), which Señor Peñaranda has supplied in nails and money for timber and leaves for thatching the roof; and with this sum the Nation will save the sum of Twenty pesos (\$20.00) monthly, which it had to pay during all this time.

Following that I built two bridges with wire carriers for better communication with the villages, one over the River *Urén* 69 yards long and the other over the River *Dicote* 50 yards long, with which the Indians are much pleased, because they do not need to wade the rivers. There have also been built by Señor Peñaranda two small houses on the principal street of this Colony, and the Indians continue devoting themselves to work with the commercial house which Señor Peñaranda has established, all being engaged in getting out sarsaparilla and sell it to him.

I see the need for the emigration of families from the interior, not only for the rapid progress of the Colony but in order to utilize the beautiful and virgin lands. Also, if the Supreme Government deems it best to send a schoolmaster, for the teaching of the youth, he could be located in the same building as the barracks, since the corridor is sufficient for it and well ventilated.

The families that came are in the best of health, except for the death of Señora Martiliana Torres of *San José*, but who came afterwards from *Limón* and caught a fever there.

Also I must not forget to say that in the Port of *Old Harbour* a warehouse has been constructed for the free transit of passengers from *Limón* to this Colony and vice versa, and having improved the road from said Port of *Old Harbour* to this Colony the best that is possible, so that animals can now pass freely and without danger. The garrison is in the best of health and there is nothing else new.

Hoping that you may look upon my little report with pleasure I am glad to subscribe myself, Señor Governor, your very obedient servant.

RAMÓN HERNÁNDEZ C.

Doc. 551 Report of Don Joaquín Bernardo Calvo on the Boundary Line With Colombia.

SAN JOSÉ, September 19, 1888.¹

To the Secretary of State in the Department of Foreign Relations.

SAN JOSÉ, September 19, 1888.

In fulfilment of what was resolved by the Supreme Executive Power and according to the instructions given by the Secretaryship in your worthy charge, I present to you the report relating to the important commission with which his Excellency the Señor President of the Republic was pleased to honour me.

The matter is a grave one and my aptitudes are very short to satisfy the wishes of the Government; but my vehement desire to be useful to the most beneficial administration that *Costa Rica* has had, on account of the immense benefit due to it in the present time and the great progress forthcoming, will somewhat compensate the lack of merit of my work; and thus, confident in the indulgence that my goodwill deserves, I put in your hands this document.

I.

The dividing line between *Colombia* and *Central America* does not offer any doubt. According to the documents, the boundaries of both countries at the time independence was declared, are known.

If among the misfortunes caused by the anarchy which over-ruled *Central America* since its emancipation till its division, we must count the segregation of a large part of our southern territory, it is an evident fact that *Costa Rica* owes to a blameable abandon in former times the extension of foreign domination carried into effect in 1870 in presence of our officials.

It does not seem pertinent to determine here the dividing line fixed in fact by *Colombia* since 1836; but I think it convenient to state that that country had not possessed on the Atlantic coast any part of the territory situated on this side of *Punta Sorocta* or

¹ Archives of the Department of Foreign Relations of Costa Rica.

Soróbeta, which stands in front of *Boca del Drago*, until the end of the year 1869 when in fact she put an official in the small village located on the right bank of the mouth of the *Sixola* river.

The efforts of the Jefe Político of *Moin*, Señor Fábrega, to establish the authority of *Costa Rica* had then a good success; but after the change of Government in 1870, *Colombia* had no obstacles in establishing again her official in the said place at the mouth of the *Sixola*.

Since that date she has possessed without interruption all the coast as far as the place referred to; but notwithstanding the investigations I have with keen interest made, I could not find even the slightest evidence of the establishment of authority in the interior land, in any place located between *Boca del Drago* and the southern part of the said river.

It seems, however, that in some time the place named *El Guavito*, marked in the enclosed map, was considered as the divisional point and that later that point was fixed more toward the interior, in *Halobita*, marked on the map of Gabb with the name of *Nuevacita*.

Colombia having not exercised any jurisdictional acts toward the interior, the line she pretends to fix as boundary between both countries could not be determined; and it is a fact that even today the agents of the Government of *Costa Rica* maintain the sovereignty of this country over all the course of the *Sixola* River, and that the authority of *Colombia* has been circumscribed to the land point occupied by the village I have referred to.

And this notwithstanding that the inhabitants of those places, among whom prevails the negro race with the pretension of being English, indicate, as already said, as the dividing spot in the river, some of them *Guabito* and some others *Halobita*, which I also found stated in orders signed in 1883 by the *Jefe Político* of *Talamanca*, **although not expressed in a conclusive manner.**

In fact, in January 22 of the said year, that official conferred to the justice of the peace of *Guali* "jurisdiction as far as HALOBITA, and if it should be necessary, as far as the mouth of the river SIXAULA, in the part belonging to COSTA RICA; all the waters of the river SIXAULA belonging also to COSTA RICA; and in any case, being necessary, with the power to capture an of-

fender in the waters of the part of the mouth of SIXAULA belonging to THE UNITED STATES OF COLOMBIA, with the only exception of not laying the boats on the shores of the said village."

This has been the state of things since 1870 and I have no notice that the Colombian authority of the *Mouth of the Sixola* had pretended to exercise jurisdiction over the river or on any point of the southern bank and much less to hinder the free exercise of the sovereignty of *Costa Rica* over the whole length of the territory traversed by the same river.

Whether the river has been considered as an easy and common way for the inhabitants of both parties and the free use of which has not given rise to disagreements between them, or that the complete indifference of those who have been there as to the pending disputes has avoided obstruction, the fact is that from the opinion of the inhabitants of those places, very little can be used as a basis to judge about the true boundary as far as which *Colombia* has desired to maintain her jurisdiction.

Which is the line that must be followed since *Halobita*, in what direction and how far does it run? This is a problem that, as I have already said, cannot be determined in fact, because there have never been any marked spots on the territory of the interior part and because *Colombia* has not exercised jurisdictional acts that could determine them.

Therefore it is evident that only in consideration of the Government of *Costa Rica* having tolerated the occupation of the southern extremity of the mouth of the *Sixola*, this place has been respected, and that *Colombia* has never had any possession neither of the waters of the river nor of any part of the territory towards the interior.

II

This was the state of things when in the month of May of the present year, a body of engineers appeared in the *Sixola* river, making surveys on the river and marking at several points of observation on the trunks of some trees, the initials, *C. P.*, over a space cut on the trunks at an ordinary man's height.

Following this commission, arrived another, which, as it seems, was correcting the work of the former.

These engineers, who stated that they were under the service of the Panama Canal, entered by the mouth of the *Sixola* river and went up stream, putting the said marks at certain distances on the southern bank of same river.

The Political Chief of *Talamanca*, being informed of what was going on and one of the engineers having applied to him to ask for some men for the work, that official advised immediately the Governor of *Limón*, who giving due attention to such an important advice, sent it by telegraph to the Government.

It is easy to understand the embarrassment in which the Political Chief found himself to be in so arduous a matter, and it is just to recognize that he had reasons enough for doing nothing whilst he had not received the instructions he asked for.

This seemed to be the most prudent, but the instructions never came. The work was progressing and the engineers showed their pretensions to follow the course of the river on the part of it called *Tiliri*, very much to the north of the place where the village of *San-Bernardo* is located, and it became necessary to hinder the execution of such work on those places, as it was done, in fact, with the greatest prudence.

Whether it were on account of the difficulties the engineers were detained by, or because they themselves considered as audacious such a great encroachment on the territory of *Costa Rica*, from the spot where the river *Yorquin* or *Zorquin* flows into the *Sixola* they followed the course of the said river *Yorquin* up-stream in the whole extent they were able to navigate it, and they continued afterwards by land in the same direction of this river, and later, by a trail in that of *Pico Róvalo*, this last spot being also the one to which aimed the engineers who studied the section on the side of the river *Changuinola*, which section extends to the south of this same river.

I was not able to get knowledge of the starting points of the work on the side of *Colombia*; but it is very clear that they are found very far away from *Punta Soroceta* or *Soróbeta*, in the territory of this Republic now possessed by *Colombia*.

In the enclosed sketch, calculated on the map of Gabb, I have marked with rose color, the territory embraced by the measuring

made on this side of *Pico Róvalo*, and with red color, the line that was intended to search on the river *Tiliri*, without being able to determine the extent that it was sought to give it.

III.

I have no positive notice of the part that the Government of *Colombia* may have taken in this matter. I was only informed that Señor Bravo, Chief of the first expedition, stated that the work had no connection with the boundary disputes, and that with regard to the ownership of the lands they were measuring, this would be known when the Arbitrator would decide upon the boundaries of both countries.

It is natural to suppose that a respectable commission of engineers under the service of the Panama Canal, was not coming to measure on the river *Sixola*, without at least, an indication of the Governor of the *Isthmus*; but it calls my attention that the Political Judge of the *Mouth of Sixola*, has not been instructed of any enlargement of his jurisdiction, and that the Costa Rican officials have not had the slightest difficulty for the full exercise of their functions in those same places located in the territory of which *Colombia* seemed to have taken possession.

IV

All the inhabitants of the settlements, situated on the coast as far as *Chiriquí* and those of the Bay of *Bocas del Toro*, with the exception of a few Colombians by birth, are negroes, who consider themselves as English under the flag of Great Britain. They speak that language, and say that they do not care if the sovereign of those places is *Colombia* or *Costa Rica*, as far as they can get some work.

V.

Considering what had been done by the engineers of the Panama Canal, when I travelled by the *Sixola* river, I looked for the best place to locate the garrison which is now in *San Bernardo*, in order that it shall inspire respect and that any new en-

croachments on our territory may be hindered by its presence; and I think that if it is not possible to maintain it at the *Boca* (mouth of the river), the most convenient would be to locate it at *Cuabre* or at *Mastate*, in the place where the river is crossed following the *Talamanca* road. In this place, it would be possible to prevent new incursions of foreign elements in our country by that part.

The elements for life could perhaps be obtained there with less difficulty than in *San Bernardo*, which is situated at a longer distance, and although very near the Indian hamlets, things are there as scarce as in any of the other places that I have indicated; the climate is good, but distance makes it less suitable whilst the planned colony is not improved.

I wished, Señor Minister, to present you a work worthy of the matter with which I have been entrusted; but the very short time that I have had to prepare this report, only has permitted me to fix the principal points of which the Government desired to be informed. I hope that my efforts may at least throw some light on this very interesting matter.

I am, with the highest consideration, your devoted servant,
J. B. CALVO.

Report of the Governor of Limón.

Doc. 552

No. 159.

Señor Secretary of State in the Departments of Government and Fomento:

LIMÓN, October 31, 1887.¹

The following is the report which it is my duty to submit to the Minister for the month ending today:

* * * * *

IV. The Colony of *Talamanca*, to which the Government has given marked attention, is fairly prosperous, not so much in its ornamentation as in the development of the wealth of its fertile soil and pleasing climate. At other times I have allowed myself

¹ National Archives of Costa Rica. Department of Government. Year 1887.

to report in reference to the advantageous general conditions of that privileged territory; but now I propose to concentrate my facts to one point, which not unknown, still little has been said about its special circumstances. I refer to the River *Sixaola*. The majestic *Sixaola* does not have a source, like all the other rivers which wash the picturesque localities of *Talamanca*, but it is formed by three tributaries, the meeting of which is at a place called "*Sureca*," an old possession of the first merchants who penetrated into these virgin forests.

These rivers, whose plains are an admirable mixture of beautiful landscapes and natural riches, are called, "*Cuén*," "*Lare*," and "*Tilire*." It is from *Sureca* that the great river takes the name of "*Sixaola*." The wonders of this locality of *Sureca* could hardly be described by even a clever pen; there all is admirable and charming. It would seem as if Nature had in this place sought to exhibit herself with prodigal partiality.

Also, three miles below on the *Sixaola* there enters the important river "*Urén*," to add its portion, as if the broad waters of the former were not sufficient to maintain a proud and imposing course. It is on the banks of the *Urén* that the best villages of the Indians are found, and where also the settlement of *San Bernardo* was founded, now the Capital of the Colony.

Ten miles further down the River *Yurkin* empties into the *Sixaola*, and a multitude of brooks, all with the same crystalline waters that wind about in our country.

The *Sixaola* has a course of approximately a hundred miles, from *Sureca* until it empties into the Atlantic, and throughout the whole of that extent it is navigable by boats, and also by steamers of light draught for considerable distances. Its width varies from 100 to 500 metres, and its depth may be estimated at from 2 to 4 metres.

On the plains of the *Sixaola* there are almost no habitations, though at the point called *Cuabre* some are noted. At this place there are four plantations of considerable importance and ten that deserve little consideration. These properties are occupied by breeders of cattle and swine, and the number at only this point of the river is not less than 400 head. It is not very long since there were no breeders in *Talamanca*, and now it can be guaranteed that there are no less than 800 head of cattle. This

is the basis upon which this infant Colony counts for its future development in this field, which indeed increases here admirably and at little cost, since the pastures are natural and very abundant.

From the Port of *Cuabre* to the mouth of the river, which distance is more than half its length, there are only found three small farms and some ranches of rubber-gatherers and Indian boatbuilders. The boats that are made in these places are quite good and the natives use them, not only on the streams but even on the ocean; and their fishing and most risky navigations are carried on in these small fishing vessels, which they construct themselves, selecting to their satisfaction the best woods that nature has placed within their reach in such profusion. In the frequent periods during which storms occur on the Atlantic coasts, the boats of the Indians are considered the safest. Some of them can carry a load of 3,000 kilos.

The number of the inhabitants, of both sexes, who dwell on the solitary banks of the *Sixaola* will hardly amount to 60;—this great river displays its completeness, all the beauties with which nature has endowed it, but it seems that no human beings have disturbed its dense forests or its incomparable landscapes;—there is only perceived the confused murmur of its waters, with the songs of thousands of birds, hovering over its winding course.

With great consideration I subscribe myself, Señor Secretary of State, your obedient servant,

BALVANERO VARGAS.

Report of the Governor of Limón.

Doc. 553

No. 176.

To the Señor Sec. of State, in the Departments of Government Police and Fomento.

LIMÓN, January 31, 1888.¹

SEÑOR:

Being absent at the end of December last, it was not possible for me to duly make the report at that time belonging to that month; and I take pleasure in doing so now, including also the month of January which now ends.

¹National Archives of Costa Rica. Secretaryship of Government. Year 1888.

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III. Also in *Talamanca* the health has been excellent. But there have been some unfortunate incidents on account of the storms they have had there. The bad weather began on the first of January and it continued until the 22nd of the same month. The floods of the rivers that bathe the whole of that beautiful territory were frightful; two Indians were drowned, many cattle, pigs and chickens and many plantations were completely swept over.

Besides, in the River *Jurquin* there was also drowned the Policeman, Manuel Vega, who was returning from *Old Harbour*, to which port he had gone with mail, losing the correspondence, a saddled horse and some other things. The Policeman Vega was a native of *Cartago*.

The roads of that colony have remained impassable at some points; but I am advised that the local authority has already taken measures for their prompt repair. According to what some old natives of that place say, it would seem that the effects of the bad weather like that we have just had are felt here every twenty years regularly.

In general the order of the Colony inspires the necessary confidence, which is indispensable in order that the community may peacefully occupy itself with the regular work; and I am glad to state that the disorganizing tendencies which some pernicious persons sought to instill into the innocent natives seem to have completely disappeared.

I take this opportunity to subscribe myself, Sr. Sec. of State,
your attentive and obedient servant,

BALVANERO VARGAS.

Report of Don Aquiles Bonilla on the Colony of San Bernardo in Talamanca. Doc. 554

LIMÓN, April 12, 1888.¹

Señor Minister of Government:

I have the honor to bring to the knowledge of the Minister the account of the trip to the Colony of *San Bernardo de Talamanca*, for which I was commissioned by Resolution No. 558, of March 26, last past:

I left *Limón* on Monday, the 26th of the month last past, at 12:30 p. m., in the little National Steamer "Juan Santa María," accompanied by Don José Ramón Chavarría, Don Temístocles Peñaranda, *Jefe Político* of *Talamanca*, and the garrison destined for the Colony of *San Bernardo*.

At 2:30 in the afternoon we found ourselves in front of the mouth of the River *Estrella* and in consequence of the rough sea the engine of the little steamer broke down, leaving us at the mercy of the waves, without any other means of saving the situation than a small launch of the Agencies Company, which was offered at the time of starting, without which we should perhaps have run the risk of greater dangers.

In this launch and notwithstanding the rough sea I disposed to go ashore, although we were six miles from the Port of *Cahuita*, accompanied by Señores Peñaranda and Don José R. Chavarría. After three hours of the worst navigation we arrived at *Cahuita*, where I gave orders to engage boats and men, sufficient to save the persons who had remained on board the little steamer; and due to the activity with which I worked in twenty minutes we had three boats and ten men. But as the place where the little steamer had been left was so deep that it could not anchor, it was at the mercy of the current, and the boats that went out to help it were not able to find it until very late at night, not only because of the bad sea but because it had changed its location, due to the current, which is very strong at that point.

On board everybody was so seasick that not a single man could be counted on to bail out the steamer, which took water in two ways, from the heavy seas that entered and the pouring rain.

¹National Archives of Costa Rica. Department of Government. Year 1888.

Thus the panic which had seized everybody aboard at the sight of the first party in search of help was converted into a rejoicing; for at that hour of the night and in the midst of such a heavy squall no one expected to be saved and even believed that the small launch which had carried us to the land had been lost, such was the condition of the sea.

Once alongside the little steamer the boats, which had arrived at different times, towed it along, being already almost to the land, since the anchor was not enough, not even helping it with the propeller of the same steamer, to hold it at one place, for the current was so great that it was swept away.

The night was a regular campaign; the seamen in the boats worked until eight in the morning of the next day, when they succeeded in entering *Cahuíta*, where the little steamer was anchored without any risk and all safe that were in it.

The bad condition of everybody, due to seasickness and the bad night, was the reason that we spent that day in *Cahuíta*, where we divided the necessary resources among ourselves and the troop.

On the following day there arrived two horses, from *Old Harbor*, and we started at once for the shore, and after four hours of a very painful ride in a rainstorm we arrived at the port of *Old Harbor*. In this place we stayed all night, awaiting the boat with the provisions, equipment of the garrison and of Señor Chavarría, lodging in the house of a Señor Rib, (a Jamaican), who received us very well, furnishing us with everything to pass a fair night.

At eight o'clock of that night I started the inquest for which I was commissioned, and after various declarations, we retired to rest. Although the beds were not very comfortable our fatigue was such that we passed a delicious night, except for the fact of being awakened at two in the morning by an individual Horacio MacNith, who lives in that port, (a man of bad antecedents, according to the reports given to me), with a gun in his hand asking the Governor to let him kill Benjamin Ortiz because he had come to his house to make love to a daughter. The owner of the house in which we were lodging, in view of such a preposterous petition, drove him away and made him leave very quickly.

The foregoing shows the way the inhabitants of these localities live, whose only law is their own will.

At 8 a. m., on the 29th of March, we left *Old Harbour* and arrived at *Cuabre* at 11 a. m. The view of this landing which is upon the River *Sixola*, is the most beautiful and it is the most important point, being the only way directly to the sea. This place presents to the view of the traveller a picturesque landscape; and the fertility of the soil offers many advantages for agriculture as well as for the breeding of animals, especially cattle and horses, on account of the abundance of good water, natural pasturage, forest products and very few things hurtful to breeding, which is very rare in places so remote as this.

After resting in the hut of *Cuabre* for an hour, more or less, until the arrival of the troop and some companies who came on foot, we crossed the River *Sixola* in a fine boat of Señor Fernández, which had been brought by his servants who awaited us at that point.

On the other side of the river we continued our march and arrived at "*Mastate*," a farm of Señor T. Peñaranda; in this place we were well received and they offered us a good breakfast, while we took some declarations, which being finished we continued the march as far as "*Cibube*," another fine cattle farm. We remained there a long time and we met twelve Indians who were sent to *Old Harbor* to bring the provisions and equipage of the garrison under orders that had been given them by the *Jefe Político*.

It being 3:30 p. m. we continued the march toward "*Piedra Grande*," a cattle ranch belonging to Señor Manuel Miranda, where we arrived at 5:30 p. m.

On this farm we passed the night rather badly, owing to the troop after reaching there taking possession of some orange trees and getting some bunches of ripe bananas, of which they ate more than was necessary. At midnight the soldiers were taken with a bad indigestion, with alarming symptoms, and the terrible screams they gave of "I am dying" woke us at once, thinking that the Cholera had broken out among them. We passed the night awaiting the improvement of the sick making them take

salt water with lemon, which made them throw up; when they had taken it, they became quiet, and in the morning they were well.

At dawn on the 30th, we proceeded in the direction of *San Bernardo*, passing some small farms and along a road that was never good, but without meeting any place that was dangerous until we reached the farm of "*Braces*," where after having given a good ration of milk to the troop we rested for quite a long while.

At 1 p. m. we continued our march, reaching *San Bernardo* at 3 p. m., without having met with any accident the whole day.

The last day of March I continued the inquest, on which work I spent three days.

After having finished, I went to visit the principal *palenques*: not only to know the customs but to find out the most urgent needs of the Colony, of which latter I will inform the Minister.

The first *palenque* (Indian village) that I visited was that of "*Túnsula*," a former dwelling place of the Indian "Kings"; and I met a number of natives, not less than 200, there also being present two chiefs of the village, who received us with much coolness and indifference, although we had announced our visit the day before.

The following day we visited the *palenque* called "*Urén*," where an Indian lived called Palacios, whom the natives designated as "Alcalde Palacios," who received us with much courtesy, offering us "*chicha*" and chocolate without sugar, which according to their customs is the greatest favor they can show to a visitor.

We then went on to the house of the Commissary, where we were received in the same way as we had been by Palacios, who now accompanied us and they showed their condescension by satisfying our curiosity, so far as to execute their special dances to the sound of the tambourine, which they played while dancing.

On this occasion Palacios, for himself and in the name of his tribe promised us to have a ball ready to offer to the President of the Republic on the day that he should be pleased to make them a visit. It is to be noted that this Indian is the Chief of

the most important *palenque* of *Talamanca*, who has always been very faithful to the Government and is in most intimate relation with the *Jefe Político* of that important Colony.

During our stay in *San Bernardo* we passed a very pleasant time and the kind attentions which Señor Peñaranda showed us left nothing to be desired, as well as those of most of the people, who attended to our wishes in everything showed themselves much pleased with our visit, both with the object of it as well as because they were convinced that the Government was not neglectful of the important work of helping the progress of the Colony, as was shown by acts that were within the reach of everyone.

Those settlers were discouraged by the lack of guaranties, on account of the disorder that was prevalent.

On the 4th of the present month we left *San Bernardo* for *Limón*, embarking in a boat well manned, and we went down the picturesque River *Urén*, which empties into the *Sixola* eight miles below *San Bernardo*. At the time of departure from this place there began a heavy rainfall, which continued for an hour, but we were not detained by it. At the farm called "*Piedra Grande*," we landed and stopped for quite a while. Proceeding on our trip we succeeded in reaching "*Mastate*" at 5:30 p. m., where we spent the night. When we reached this place we noted that the main river had begun to rise, but thinking the rain would not be very great and that we could not run any risk we rested quietly at the place mentioned. As we reached there much fatigued we slept during the whole night, through the heavy rain which fell. When we awoke the day following the river was so swollen that it was impossible to cross it, so that we decided to remain the whole of that day, until the river fell and the rainfall ceased; but the rain continued with greater force and the river rose so that it overflowed its banks, flooding the house in which we were lodged, leaving it surrounded with water and consequently isolated, and in that situation we waited from one moment to another for new calamities; and as Señor Peñaranda feared the flood would increase he provided for bringing five boats to the door of the house to save us and save the family that lived in it and the animals they had, which were swimming about without being able to find any place to land on.

He also caused a hut to be established at the highest port of the land to transfer us to, but this was in vain, because the new construction was also flooded so that we thought of embarking in the boats to pass the night in them. This decision was not carried out for at 7:30 p. m. the river began to fall, though slowly, and we could consider ourselves saved from the danger of sleeping outdoors and the risk of losing our lives.

We saw that it was necessary to remain a couple of days longer, until the rains stopped and the river had fallen. When we reached the other side of the *Sixola* our spirits revived, considering ourselves beyond all danger, and we began our march. At the moment of departure we learned from a Jamaican that the sea was too rough, and we foresaw that we might expect new difficulties; and, indeed, on arriving at *Old Harbour* we saw that it was not possible to embark, so that we decided to go along the coast to *Cahuíta*.

In *Cahuíta* we met two prisoners who had been sent on in advance, who were compromised by the inquest I had taken. We were lodged at the house of the Justice of the Peace, Señor Smith, who showed us the same attentions than on the arrival. We remained in *Cahuíta* until 11 a. m. the day following, awaiting improvement in the weather and preparing a good vessel which should carry us to *Limón*. The trip had been so hard for us that notwithstanding the falling rain and the roughness of the sea we embarked, desirous of reaching as soon as possible this port so as to rest after so many difficulties which we had encountered during our trip. As was natural our voyage was a painful one, but happily no accident happened, and we reached this port in the evening of the 10th instant.

I have finished the account of my trip to *Talamanca*. I proceed now to explain the needs of the Colony, which in my humble opinion it is urgently desirable to help.

It is indispensable to build a house for Barracks, the *Comandancia*, etc., the old one being useless.

It is also urgently needed that another house be built for a school, and a Master appointed.

In order that the Colony may have rapid communication, it is indispensable that two bridges of wood should be built over the rivers *Urén* and *Dicote*.

The postal service should be organized in such a manner that the mail man may go to *Talamanca* and return, at least twice a month, making the trip by boat.

From reports that I have received from the *Jefe Político*, Señor Peñaranda, in *Talamanca* surely can be found who can attend the mail service twice a month for the sum of \$40, giving a proper guaranty.

It is also needful to have a horse, with outfit, to carry the mail to *San Bernardo*. In the Colony the lack of a cemetery is felt, **for bodies are buried at the will of the relatives.**

It would be very convenient to appoint a boatman in the harbor of *Cuabre*, to facilitate the crossing of the river for persons who wish to establish themselves in the Colony, for on the contrary they have to remain in that place until chance favors them with a boat. The person who will fill that position would be well paid at \$15 monthly.

And finally, the settlement of at least fifteen families should be assisted, in order that the Colony take a start and its population increase.

With great consideration, I subscribe myself, Mr. Minister,

AQUILES BONILLA.

Report of the Governor of Limón.

Doc. 555

No. 83.

To the Secretary of State in the Department of Government and Fomento.

San José.

LIMÓN, October 26, 1890,¹

The *Jefe Político* of *Talamanca*, referring to the month of September last reports as follows, concerning the public matters of that Colony.

He says that on account of the interruption of the peace of the

used up at this date, in the same locality. That he has begun the repair of the roads, which means of communication were found to be impossible on account of the circumstances before mentioned. That the bad state of affairs in that territory, on account of the vagrants existing there, is disappearing and that fair and prosperous times may be expected.

Although two cases of chicken-pox have occurred in *Sureca*, this disease has not extended, due to the efforts put forth by the authorities, following medical advice, and the activity and zeal with which this delicate matter has been managed.

What has been stated is the view of the official referred to and which he has communicated to me. Permit me in turn to bring it to the knowledge of the Minister of whom I subscribe myself, with respectful consideration, the obedient servant.

BALVANERO VARGAS.

Doc. 556

Report of the Governor of Limón.

No. 84.

To the Secretary of State in the Department of Government and Fomento.

San José.

LIMÓN, October 28, 1890.¹

With great reason the Government of the Republic has always fixed its attention upon the virgin soil of *Talamanca*, and its efforts have been redoubled by the present administration, although unfortunately it has not been able to respond to so much enthusiasm and so much benevolence. Without mentioning any person, I think that up to the present time, the poor results of these laudable efforts have been the natural consequence of no employee having resided in the Colony under the required conditions. To arrange this point which is so important, by giving to that territory an official who shall be inspired with the public welfare, would be equivalent to establishing the basis of an era of prosperity for those native peoples. The fertility of the soil of *Talamanca*, its abundant fluvial waters, which make it so beautiful and the other natural riches which it possesses, are stimulat-

¹ *Supra.*

ing agricultural undertakings, which are really the foundation of the prosperity and growth of countries. I understand that at various times the Government has taken measures to favor honest and hardworking persons who desired to go as colonists. It has now some houses there ready for such purpose, cattle and horses; and if I remember rightly there is in existence a Decree which authorizes the Executive to provide also each colonist with the sum of \$17 monthly, for a time that is scarcely sufficient until they can begin to gather the products of their labor. Everything therefor is ready; and it only needs a little persistent effort in search of colonists, either in the country or outside of it; but it should be an indispensable condition that in looking for such colonists they should be poor people whose only occupation is the cultivation of the soil.

There is no need in *Talamanca* now for bartenders, musicians nor loafers; but it needs the man with the machete, the shovel and the plough to dig the ground and take from it the benefit that it is capable of producing.

To formally establish the Colony, therefor, should be the principal object, and for this purpose I beg to present to the high consideration of the Minister the following idea: it is this. The occasion seems to me most opportune for attracting colonists to *Talamanca*. The stoppage of the work on the canal at *Panama* and the great damages produced by the recent fires at *Colón*, have left in poverty many families, who would think it fortunate in the midst of their misery to find a hospitable place where with industry and natural resources they could repair their losses, at the same time finding a second mother country in which to live. A wise person, under suitable instruction, would clear fields for himself, overcoming a difficulty that has been met in which so much money has thus far been vainly employed. I understand perfectly, concerning this matter of so much importance and I have tried to humbly submit my present views which may be of some value.

With great consideration I subscribe myself, Señor Secretary of State, your very obedient servant.

BALVANERO VARGAS.