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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 639. Press ~~Mis.~~

167-168

Dated 20-4- 1874.

6/7

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
20th April 1874.

No. 167. Read the following letter from Captain J. L. L. MORANT, R.E., District Engineer, Nilgiris, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Chief Engineer and Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Ootacamund, 17th February 1874, No. 52:—

I have the honour to invite your attention to two resolutions of the Ootacamund Municipal Commissioners passed at a meeting held on the 31st ultimo at which I was unable to be present.

2. They are as follow:—

"*No.* 21.—Arrangements proposed for the repair of the roads in 1874-75. The Commissioners resolve to solicit the sanction of Government through the President for transferring the charge of the roads during the coming year, the repair of which rests with the Municipal Commissioners, to the District Engineer, the Commissioners paying a mileage rate to be fixed upon hereafter, subject to the conditions that the District Engineer shall submit a Monthly Progress Report in the same way as is now submitted to the Local Fund Board of expenditure on the several roads and that he should be under the direction of the Commissioners in regard to work done in the same manner as he is subject to the general control of the Local Fund Board. The Commissioners further resolve to request that Government may be pleased to order that the District Engineer should carry out any new works on roads on sanctioned estimates."

"*No.* 25.—The Commissioners resolve to request the District Engineer to be good enough to prepare an estimate for widening and draining the road from the Church to Snowdon Saddle and thence to the Marlimund Reservoir and metalling such parts as may be necessary; the maximum width to be twelve feet exclusive of drains. The whole of the roads to be coated with laterite of an average thickness of four inches; the metal when used to be eight feet wide, of an average thickness of three inches."

3. In view of the above resolutions, which have been arrived at without my having anything to do with them, I have the honour to inquire whether it meets your wishes that I should accept the responsibility which the Commissioners are about to request Government to place upon me; of course, if Government order me to do so I can have no choice in the matter. But to do anything like justice to the additional work which will thus be thrown upon me I strongly feel that I should require the assistance of an Overseer in Ootacamund in addition to the Taluq Overseer already here. I trust you will agree with me in considering that I could not (in justice to the department to which I have the honour to belong) without remark accept the responsibility without some help of the kind. On this point I beg to be allowed to bring to your recollection that my present Overseer, Maneevalloo Pillay, is about to exchange with a Mr. Dorsey, whose arrival I am awaiting from the Malabar District. Would it be too much to ask of you to allow me to keep Maneevalloo Pillay for the municipal roads in addition to Overseer Dorsey, who would do the usual duties of a Taluq Overseer? The proposed arrangements of the Municipal Commissioners is only intended to be for one year on trial. If Overseer Manuel was allowed to remain for that period other arrangements could in the meanwhile be adopted for permanently occupying his place if it was so thought desirable.

4. Moreover, I learn on good authority that Government propose spending large sums on roads within municipal limits and around Ootacamund, to carry out which speedily and efficiently the services of an additional Overseer would be very necessary even if the Municipality looked after their own roads.

5. In submitting these propositions of the Municipal Commissioners to you I beg to apprise you that they have not been sought for by me. I have merely expressed my readiness to do all in my power to assist them with the proviso, of course, that anything they might propose would meet with your approval. I need hardly inform you that if I consulted my own personal convenience I should feel inclined to absolutely refuse to have anything whatever to do with the station roads, in attending to which I can expect to gain no approval from any one, unless, indeed, the Government issued positive orders on the subject. I merely desire to act in this matter as I conceive a public servant ought to do, and I beg you will be good enough to afford me your valuable advice. From the experience I have had of the Local Fund Board and of the Municipality I anticipate no difficulty in working with them in the way proposed.

6. Should you consider it advisable that I should accept the Municipal Commissioners' offer, should Government approve of it with such additional assistance as the nature of the case demands, I beg to be allowed to bring to your notice one point which seems to me of importance. The Municipality will, of course, proceed to work on a Budget in which will be entered certain sums for various roads at certain mileage upkeep rates. But much of this money (consisting, as it does, of taxes on the inhabitants) for these roads will not be available until October or even later in the official year, and will come in by dribblets at uncertain intervals. To expend sums of money on repairs to roads in October would be doing the work in the most inefficient manner, and it would be impossible to make proper arrangements if there was uncertainty as to the receipt of funds and if the works had to keep pace with funds falling in at irregular and uncertain intervals. This would be a hand-to-mouth system that could never be satisfactory. Money would be required on the 1st April and all road repairs should be over by October at latest. May I, therefore, on the Budget being passed, assume that the allotted sums for road repairs are available (just as I do now in the case of Local Funds) and expend the money at the proper times and in such ways as I deem fit, the Government being recouped afterwards on the municipal taxes being paid in. Some arrangements to meet this difficulty seem to me essential.

7. In thus addressing you I beg to apprise you that I have not lost sight of Public Works G. O., No. 2768, of 31st August 1866.

8. If that Order be held to apply absolutely to Ootacamund there is an end of the matter. But perhaps that Order is not now applicable inasmuch as it was passed when Local Fund Boards were non-existent and when the posts of District Engineers were not created. Moreover, with regard to the Municipality of Ootacamund, it has always hitherto been held exceptional. My predecessor did various work for the Commissioners, and I have done the same. I am now also, under Government orders, engaged in preparing a rather elaborate project for the conservation of the water supply and for the drainage of the town of Coonoor for the Municipal Commissioners, and Government, I believe, are considering the propriety of dealing with this (the Ootacamund) in a manner quite different to that in which they treat other Municipalities. These circumstances will, I trust, be considered as sufficient excuse for my addressing you on the subject.

Soliciting early orders, I have, &c.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
20th April 1874.

Transferred to the Financial Department.

11th March 1874. (Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

No. 168. ORDER THEREON, 20th April 1874, No. 639.

The Commissioners have been informed that the proposed arrangement can only be sanctioned on their agreeing to pay a rateable share of the cost of Public Works supervision.

2. Under these circumstances it is not probable that the proposal will be repeated.

(True Extract.)

Acting Chief Secretary.

To the President of the Municipal Commission, Ootacamund.
,, Public Works Department.

Exd. A. S. Rodgers.

Govt. of {1874} Madras.

FINANCIAL.

To

THE PRESIDENT OF THE
MUNICIPAL COMMISSION,
Ootacamund,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated April, 20th.

Recd. Encl.

G. O., 20th April 1874, *No.* 639.

APRIL.
Nos. 167-168.

Ootacamund Municipality.—The Public Works Department informed, with reference to the letter addressed to it by the District Engineer, Nilgiris, on the subject of two resolutions passed by the Municipality for transferring the charge of the roads to the District Engineer, that it has been intimated to the Commissioners that the proposed arrangement can only be sanctioned on their agreeing to pay a rateable share of the cost of Public Works supervision and that under the circumstances it is not probable that the proposal will be repeated.

P. W. Pros. of 31/8/66. Nos 717-719.
C. No. 418.
Fwd 97 cs Guard P/s Nos 183-184.

Fwd. 1874 Department
No 52 639. H D
No. 985

From
The District Engineer
Neilgherries

To The Chief Engineer
& Secretary to Govt
No 594 D. P.W. Madras
Dated 17th February 74
Received 19th

Forwards 2 Resolutions passed by the Municipal Commissioners of Ooty relative to the execution of road repairs & other works within Municipal limits & asks advice with an Order

Transferred to the Financial Department.

Lt Walker Col. R.E.
Sec.y to Govt
P. W. D.

11th March 1874.

C 25/3.
P 28/3.
C 31/3
R 20/3

5 D

Govt. of {1874 Madras.

Financial

To

The Pres.t Mun.l Comm.rs
Ootacamund
&c.

G. O. April 20, 1874. No. 639.

Nos. 167. 168.

that under the circumstances it is not probable that the proposal will be repeated -

Oot.d Munv. The P.W. Dept. informed with ref.e to the letter addressed to it by the Dt. Engr. - Neilgiris on the Subject of two Res.ns passed by the Munv. for transferring the charge of the Roads to the Dt. Engr., that it has been intimated to the Comm.rs that the proposed arrangement can only be sanctioned on their agreeing to pay a ratable share of the cost of P.W. Supervis.n