[L. & M. 9,000-8-8-96.]

Local & Munl. (1895) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 1817 M

DATED 1st November 1895.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Water-supply.

Recording letter from the Chairman, Municipal Council, Ootacamund, regarding the-----of the town.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

~~No.~~

Extract from the Proceedings of a Meeting of the Ootacamund Municipal Council held on ~~Thursday~~ Saturday the 4th May 1895.

~~Subject No.~~

Present.

The Chairman
H. A. Sim Esquire Collector
E. Haldwell Esquire
L. W. Schmidt Esquire
M.R.Ry M. Sankara Menon avl
M.R.Ry P. Maruthachella Mudaliar as
J. Browne Esquire
A. M. Jones Esquire
M.R.R. C. Rajagopaul Naidu Garu.

Subject No. XIV.

Read letter dated 3rd May 1895 from the Acting Collector of Nilgiris, forwarding certain suggestions for the immediate consideration of the Municipal Council regarding the water supply and drainage of the town and for the appointment of a Sub Committee to go into the matter and to report to the Council.

Resolution:—

The Council resolves to adopt the suggestions made by the Collector

(1) In regard to the measures to be immediately adopted with reference to the present scarcity of water, viz, the preparation of list of wells &c and the provision for repair of such of these sources as may need it.

2. In regard to the prevention of the drainage of the latrines, Slaughter Houses, and drains of the bazaar passing directly into the lake - viz. that the Chairman do make an urgent representation to Government requesting that steps may forthwith be taken to carry out the recommendations that have already been made for the repair or renewal of the main Sewer pipes.

3. In regard to the consideration of the question of the general water supply of the town, viz that the following gentlemen be requested to form themselves into a committee to go into the matter and report thereon briefly to the Council -

The Collector
The Chairman
The District Forest Officer
Mr G. J. Walch
M. R. Ry P. Maruthachella Mudaliar
avl

1/15-30 pm

MUNICIPAL OFFICE,
OOTACAMUND, 6th May 1895.
To

(True Extract)
Chairman.

Cur No. 726/1895

Nilgiri Collector's office
Ootacamund 3rd May 1895

From

H. A. Sim Esquire I.C.S.
Ag Collector of Nilgiris.

To

The Chairman
Municipal Council
Ootacamund.

Sir,

In forwarding to you the following rough suggestions in connection with the water Supply of the town of Ootacamund, I have the honor to request that the matter may be brought up before the Municipal Council at its next meeting for discussion.

No 1 - In regard to the Marlimund Reservoir, the water level there has already fallen to nearly 3 feet and as the banks appear to shelve in rapidly at this depth, the rate at which the water level will fall during the next few days will probably increase and if we have no fresh rain by then, the water Supply from this reservoir may possibly cease before a second Municipal meeting can be held. For this reason, in order that the Chairman's hands may be strengthened and the necessary authority

authority granted to him by the Municipal Council to deal with the situation, when it arises, and also because it is important that such measures as may be found necessary should be taken well in advance, it seems to me that the matter should be discussed and the necessary orders passed and sanctions accorded at the meeting to be held on Saturday. What measures exactly should be taken is a matter for discussion by the members of the Council. The first thing, of course, is to find a source or sources of supply to be substituted for that of Marlimund Reservoir and this I presume can only be found, partly perhaps in the Dodabetta supply, partly in the utilisation of springs and wells and partly in the utilisation of the water of the lake. For the first you will no doubt be able to tell us at the meeting, to what extent the Dodabetta supply can be utilised to supplement or be substituted for that of Marlimund. The pipes of the two systems are connected at Charing Cross and the Willow bund and I presume that the water from the one could therefore be made use of to supply the other to some extent.

2 For the second, there is no doubt a considerable number of wells, springs and streams, some now in use, some now out of use, to which the people of Ootacamund could have recourse and which would probably, at any rate on the higher level form the Chief substitute for the ordinary pipe water. A list of such wells, springs and streams should I think be drawn up and kept ready to be immediately printed and circulated to the people, and steps should at once be taken to clean and repair or reopen such wells and springs as may require it: to provide facilities in the way of platforms, ropes and buckets where necessary and to notify and carry out such steps as may be needed to prevent the fouling of these open sources: many wells are no doubt private: but the owners of such wells would probably be quite willing to allow residents in the immediate neighbourhood to make a limited use of them, if properly approached and requested. This, I suggest, should be done.

3- As for the third source, the water of the lake, that is to say, there is an ample supply of water here and it will probably form the Chief source of supply for the main

main bazaar but the water is not of particularly good quality and therefore due notice should be given to the public both by tom-tom, and by adding a note to that effect to the printed list of wells and springs, to which I have already referred; that all water taken from the lake for drinking purposes should be well boiled and if possible also filtered before being used. If this is not done, Considering the condition of the lake we shall probably have sickness arising as the result of the use of it

4 In this connection I should like to draw attention to the condition of the water of the lake. I have been walking through the bazaars and along the margin of the lake during the last few days, and on each occasion I have seen the water of the main sewage drain, running directly into the upper portion of the lake. This water is not merely Rainwater or Stormwater nor is it even merely water from the household sink, it is water running directly from the main bazaar latrines, from the slaughter house, and from the drains of small lanes and side streets, which are themselves obviously

obviously and visibly used by the neighbouring residents as so many latrines. All this filth, sewage of the worst description, is poured directly into the lake. It is deliberately so poured into the lake, I am told, because the main drainage pipes are stopped up and will not work, and it has been so poured, I am also told, Continuously for the last 6 or 7 months at least. I know I am not stating any new fact in telling the Council this, for the subject has been before the Council repeatedly already: His Excellency the Governor and the Honorable Members of the Council themselves have seen the sewage drainage into the lake and the matter is even now I am told, before Government awaiting its orders. All, that I need suggest therefore now, is that the Council should make an urgent representation to Government that the matter should be taken in hand and disposed of at a very early date. For if no rain falls into the Marlimand Reservoir within the next few days, it is quite certain that we shall be compelled to make use of the water of this lake for drinking purposes, and if the accumulated sewage of the town is to be continued to be poured into the lake at such a time, it will be impossible to regard the situation with equanimity. We are

none

none of us medical experts, but it does not need much medical knowledge to know that water that has been contaminated for several months by the drainage into it of sewage from latrines and slaughter houses, and that in all probability will be drunk by the poorer classes without any filtering or boiling, is likely to result in much sickness. Such sickness with our absolutely limited supply of good water, our difficulty of removing infections from our midst and the existence, even now, of Cholera in Coimbatore and Malabar, would probably lead to a considerable loss of life. As to what should be done, that is a question for the Engineers, but I am told, and it seems to be the case, that the main faults are a want of proper levelling and the provision of too small a pipe, the result of which is such a blockage of the drain itself, as has forced the Council to deliberately break the pipes and allow the sewage to run where it will, that is into the Lake-

5 And thirdly, at this time and under these conditions, I think it would be a good opportunity for the Council to take up the whole question of the water supply of Ootacamund. It is said, and probably it is true, that we have in our present reservoirs of Marlimund and Dodabetta, a supply which if strictly guarded and limited, would suffice for all the drinking water requirements of the town. This may be so, but even if it is, it is not, I think, a state of things which the Municipal Council should rest satisfied with. Ootacamund is a large sanitarium and Hill side resort for Government and for visitors from all parts of India, and when the train runs up, it will be a very much larger one I believe.

6 For one thing therefore we have to consider the probability of an increased population. For another thing it is not, in my opinion, a safe or satisfactory thing, that the mere failure of one monsoon should reduce an important place like Ootacamund to the straights, that we are now in, and in the third place it is distinctly unpleasant and objectionable in a town so full of Europeans, native princes and gentlemen of position, as Ootacamund that the supply of water should be so limited throughout the season, - which, it must be remembered, is the hot weather months, - that one has to be so exceedingly sparing and careful

in the

connection, to consider the question of utilising more completely for public as opposed to private purposes the water of the various streams which run through the Government Forest Reserves.

8 For this purpose, therefore, viz, that of considering the whole question of water supply both domestic and other of Colaba mund, I suggest that a small sub Committee should be formed to thoroughly go into the question, and to report to the Council briefly what measures, it recommends, should be taken and what general policy should be adopted in the matter of the Conservancy and the use of water, within or adjoining the Municipal limits. One gentleman, who obviously should form the back bone of such a sub Committee would be Mr Walch, himself a hydraulic Engineer of long experience and very high standing, and one in whom, I am sure, the whole Council would feel Complete Confidence. The Chairman also has had a considerable experience of this particular question. The District Forest Officer from his position, of necessity, knows a good deal about the general question, and in particular, has of course every thing to do with the streams that run through and from the Government Forest Reserves. The Collector as Divisional Officer would also be useful on such a Committee: and as a representative of the native gentlemen, and as also himself much interested in the matter, Mr Maruthachella Mudaliar, might well form the 5th member.

Such a sub Committee of the following five members, therefore, I would suggest that the Council should appoint for this purpose viz The Collector, The Chairman, Mr Walch, the District Forest Officer and Mr Maruthachella Mudaly. The District Forest Officer is, I believe, not a member of the Council, but if asked, he would no doubt be glad to to give his assistance.

9 It would, of course, not be the first occasion on which the question of water-supply has been gone into but it would, I believe, be the first occasion on which the question has been gone into by the Town Council itself. It was gone into in 1881 by Mr. Walch now a member of our Council: the question of Marlimund Reservoir has been recently gone into by Mr Ellis as Government Officer and I believe that the Sanitary Board proposes before

before long to sit and Consider the question but these discussions of the subject do not appear to have led to any very great results so far: and to lead to anything practicable it seems best that the Council should take the matter up itself. Mr Walch's papers probably are among the records of the Council and would no doubt form a useful basis to work upon. Mr Ellis has not reached the Council yet but will no doubt be supplied by the Government if asked for; with these papers before it the work of the Sub Committee will no doubt be much simplified.

10 Should the question of conserving the water supply from pollution by dobbies an authorized squatting &c also come before the Sub Committee I need not say that the Council may confidently rely on receiving from the Collector such assistance as he may be able to afford.

I have &c
(Sd) H.A. Sim
Ag Collector.

(True Copy)

G. Bamnett
Chairman

No. 417 "Urgent."

Ootacamund Municipal Office,
6th May 1895.

Local & Municipal Dept.
CURRENT No. 1530/1

From

THE CHAIRMAN,
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL,
OOTACAMUND.

To

The Honorable J. F. Price C.S.I.,
Chief Secretary to the Government,
Stone House Hill.

Enclosures Two

Sir,

In continuation of my letter no 1044 dated the 6th April 1895, I have the honor to enclose for the information of the Government copy of a further Resolution (XIV) of the Ootacamund Municipal Council passed, at the meeting held on the 4th May instant, together with a Copy of the Acting Collectors' letter therein referred to.

2. The lists of wells &c referred to in clause 1 of the Resolution are being prepared, and some of the disused public wells have been cleaned out.

3. As regards clause 2 I may mention that a Report, Estimate and Plan for remedying the defects in the main intercepting Sewer were sent to the Acting Sanitary Engineer to Government on the 7th September 1894, and he informed me on the 7th November that the papers had been submitted to the Government with his

(over)

own deposit. but no Orders have yet been passed by the Government.

Mr. Linn the Acting Collector writes strongly on the necessity of diverting the Sewage of the Town from the Upper Lake, but such diversion could only be effected when the levels of the main Sewer are adjusted and the Sewage Conveyed to the outlet pipe beyond Loch End. I am however desired by the Municipal Council to Solicit the Early orders of the Government on the Papers Submitted to them by the Acting Sanitary Engineer.

The question of the general Water Supply of the Town is a most important one, and will no doubt be Carefully Considered by the Sub-Committee which has been appointed and by the Conference which I am told is to Sit at Ootacamund on, or about the 15th Instant.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedt St.,

E. Bannerman
Chairman.

Municipal Dept.

From
No. CURRENT No. 1530 M

The Chairman
Municipal Council
Ootacamund

To

The Chief Secretary to Government
Local & Municipal Dept.
Stone House Hill.

No. 417

Dated 6th
Desp. 6th } May 1895
Rec'd 10 MAY. 95

Enclosures Two

CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE
7 MAY 1895

Water Supply in Ootacamund

Enclosing copy of the resolution of the Municipal Council held on the 4th May 1895 together with a copy of the Collector's letter regarding the _____ for the information of the Government.

10/5 am/5

Go. 711 A dt 6 of 95
. 634 M of 95
. 521 M of 95
.. 465 M of 95
.. 1246 M of 94
.. 739 M of 94
1601 M of 93
1283 M of 93
764 M of 93
626 M of 93
325 M of 93
673 M of 92
619 M of 92
1035 M of 90.

300—28-5-94.

Land M DEPARTMENT.

No. 1530 M

From The Chairman Municipal Council Ootacamund

Dated 6th May 1895.

FOR ORDERS.

Ootacamund Chairman's letter no 417 of 6.5.95, covering a further resolution of the Council regarding the steps to be taken to meet the present scarcity of water and a set of proposals on the subject by Mr. Sim, is submitted for perusal.

The papers relating to the improvements necessary to the new main sewer are still with the Chief Engineer. Another reminder is being sent to him today.

DS
14/5/95

C&I
14.5.95.

Yes— Nothing more can be done by Govt. at present. But get the P.W.D. to look up the section of the agreement to which in the M. M. in Mr. Beaufoy's d.o. & have been taken when the Marlimund reservoir was formed.

DS
15/5/95

1530hrs

Water supply and drainage
of Obacamund.

H. M

(further resn of the Council for perusal)

N
Misc

order No 1817 mis. 1-11-95

Recorded.

VR
31/10/95

1.11.95

When given for copying
When copied
When examined
When signed
} 189.

READ AGAIN G.O., No. DATED
189 ,

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	
LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.								
STATEMENT WITH DITTO.								
PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH IN ORIGINAL.								

N.B.—
A = Copy in full.
B = Not to be copied
P = Copy abstract only.
Q = Copy heading only.