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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 40074	Press
530-531	~~Mis.~~
Dated 22 - 12 - 1866.	

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
22nd December 1866.*

No. 530. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Revenue Department:—

Communicating paragraphs 1 to 6 of a Minute
by His Excellency the President, and calling
for a report on the several arrangements
therein proposed as regards the Snowdon
water-supply at Ootacamund. } (Here enter 20th December 1866, No. 3,430.)

No. 531. ORDER THEREON, 22nd December 1866, No. 4,074.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 106.

Forwarded to the Superintending
Engineer of the 7th Division, for com-
munication to Major Farewell for his
information and guidance, in continuation of G. O. No. 1,046, dated 5th April 1866.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, with two copies of Enclosures.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

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MINUTE BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT.

I. The mountain of Snowdon, near Ootacamund, contains certain springs, which would naturally take their course north-westwards towards Mysore, but which have in part been intercepted at a high level by artificial channels, and have been led to the water-shed of a valley falling towards Ootacamund, in the neighbourhood of Dr. Pope's house. At this spot they are joined by a little stream, taken from the eastern declivity of Snowdon, called Riley's run, and the united waters are caught in a small tank of recent construction. The tank is also fed by a third tributary, which issues from a swamp, and a piece of copsewood, called Garrard's land.

II. The tank referred to does not seem to me to be of much use, but the volume of the stream derived from the three sources referred to above is sufficiently large to be of material utility not only to the houses and gardens scattered on the slope of the adjoining hill on the Ootacamund side, but even to the Court House, the Jails, and other public establishments.

At present the water supply does not seem either to be well directed or carefully economized.

From the tank a portion, when I visited the spot, was wasted by an overflow in the wrong direction, and a part was lost by leakage; what remained was conducted in a channel recently constructed or repaired parallel to but below the high road which leads to the church.

III. On the way the main stream sends off two or three minor channels downwards to private houses, such as that which belongs to Mr. McIvor, that which is occupied by the Female Asylum, and others, the volume of water gradually diminishes, and after sending off its last drain to the house of a widow lady Mrs. Coombes, the flow becomes hardly perceptible; a little water reaches the wall of the churchyard in moist weather, and expires in a puddle beside a stone in front of the Cutcherry.

IV. The Government ought not, in my opinion, to suffer either a misdirection or a waste of water which might be so profitably applied. It ought to be made more generally useful to private property, and a surplus should be reserved for public purposes.

With these views I beg to suggest the following measures:—

(1) That the springs on the western slope of Snowdon should be more carefully and extensively intercepted.

(2) That Riley's run should be kept clean and water-tight, and that as many subordinate rills should be directed into it as possible.

(3) That the stream which rises in Garrard's land should be stopped at a higher level, that it should be cut off from the tank, and that it should be conducted by an upper channel so as to command two houses which belong to the Reverend Mr. Griffiths.

(4) That the tank should be abolished, or, if that be deemed unadvisable, that it should be made more secure, and that the whole of its overflow be carried into the proper channel, called Major Farewell's channel.

(5) That Major Farewell's channel be altered to a higher level, if practicable, in such a manner that after receiving the surplus water from Garrard's run, (which has done its duty at the Reverend Mr. Griffiths' upper property,) it may command certain lower fields belonging to the Reverend Mr. Griffiths, and afford water to any houses which may be built there.

(6) That the existing channels which go off to Mr. McIvor's house, to the Asylum, and to other dwellings, may be still supplied (until it is found possible to provide water for those houses from lower sources), proportioning the water supply carefully to the necessities of each recipient.

(7) That all the springs which rise along the side of the hill intersected by Major Farewell's channel be carefully saved and directed into that channel.

(8) That a tank be eventually constructed near the wall of the churchyard, in which the surplus water still remaining after these various offices are performed, may be stored for the use of the Cutcherry, the Jails, the Bazaars, and other public localities.

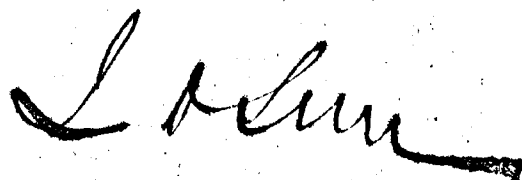
V. It will be seen from what I have stated, that one of my objects in advising these alterations is to provide both the upper and lower properties belonging to the Reverend Mr. Griffiths with a water supply. This purpose, though a subordinate one, is, in my judgment, perfectly justifiable and equitable, for both the properties belonging to Mr. Griffiths lie under the head waters of the streams referred to, and Mr. Griffiths ought to have all the advantages granted by Government to others. It must also be stated in favor of Mr. Griffiths, that at a former period he himself had cut channels by which the water in question was made available for his properties, (though that water always was and still is the property of Government,) and that by his activity and investigations he was instrumental in discovering and developing the sources of water available for Ootacamund. The capital object will always be to secure an eventual supply for the purposes of Government and the Municipality.

VI. The proposals which I have here embodied are, I believe, essentially consistent with the terms of a Government Order recently passed on this subject. I therefore request that my views may be communicated to the Superintending Engineer, who will instruct Major Farewell to state, after due inquiry, how far they can be carried out, and at what expense.

OOTACAMUND,
16th October 1866.

(Signed) NAPIER.

(True Copy.)



Secretary to Government.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
20th December 1866.*

Read the following papers:—

- No. 346. Minute by His Excellency the President.
(Here enter 16th October 1866.)
No. 347. Minute by Sir T. Pycroft.
(Here enter 31st October 1866.)
No. 348. Minute by the Honorable H. D. Phillips.
(Here enter 31st October 1866.)

No. 349. ORDER THEREON, 20th December 1866, No. 3,430.

Land Revenue.

1. Resolved with reference to G. O. 26th March last, No. 745, that a copy of paragraphs 1 to 6 of His Excellency the President's Minute above recorded be forwarded to the Collector of Coimbatore, and that he be instructed, in communication with the Executive Engineer, Major Farewell, to report fully on the several arrangements proposed therein as regards the Snowdon water-supply. The report should be submitted as soon as possible, and should be accompanied by the necessary plans and estimates, and a sketch of the locality, shewing through what private land, if any, the channels will pass, the compensation probably payable, and the existing private claims to water-supply which may be sensibly prejudiced. When this information is laid before them, the Government will be in a position to pass final orders on the question.

2. The Collector will report what has been done in regard to paragraphs 14 and 21 of the G. O. of 26th March last.

(True Extract.)



Secretary to Government.

To the Collector of Coimbatore.
.. the Board of Revenue.
.. the Public Works Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

