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(3) Initials of the Referencer \_\_\_\_\_

## MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

*Public Works* DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 354

Press  
No.

Dated 17/5/34

at 12/34

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,  
13th November 1868.*

No. 234. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the  
Public Department:—

Declaring that the house-tax in the Ootacamund  
Municipality must be hypothecated to Govern-  
ment for the re-payment of the loan of Rupees  
40,000 offered, and that it should be charged  
with a sum of Rupees 6,000 per annum for  
this purpose. (Here enter 28th October 1868, No. 1,348.)

No. 235. ORDER THEREON, 13th November 1868, No. 3,546.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 20.

Communicated to the Superintend-  
ing Engineer of the 7th Division.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,

*Secretary to Government.*

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,  
28th October 1868.*

Read the following papers :—

No. 153. From the Commissioner of the Neilgherry Hills, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George ; dated Ootacamund, 10th September 1868, No. 6.

I am in receipt of Proceedings\* of Government, dated 2nd September 1868, No. 1107, and have communicated the same to the Municipal Commissioners of this place, as directed.

\*On the subject of sanitary precautions, and the increasing unhealthiness of Ootacamund.

2. I have summoned a meeting for the 16th instant, to take into consideration the Proceedings and revise the estimates accordingly.

3. From what I have seen of the means which the Municipal Commission possess of constructing the new works contemplated in the Government Proceedings under reply, I fear that the works will not be executed speedily, effectually, and cheaply, unless the Government sanction their being placed under the immediate charge of the Executive Engineer. The necessary money and the subordinate Agency can, of course, be furnished by the Municipal Commissioners, but the active, personal supervision and direction of a professional man is also wanted. Colonel Farewell is perfectly willing to lend his aid in any shape required, but doubts whether, without express sanction from Government, he would be justified in giving that amount of personal attention which the works will certainly require.

4. I see by paragraph 16 of Proceedings under reply that Act X of 1865 is about to engage the attention of the Legislative Council. May I suggest that the Senior Medical Officer of the station should be made an *ex-officio* member of the Municipality. His occasional attendance at meetings would, I think, be of much service.

No. 154. From the President of the Municipal Commission, Ootacamund, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George ; dated Ootacamund, 30th September 1868, No. 196.

In acknowledging receipt of Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department, dated 2nd September 1868, and Order thereon of the same date, No. 1107, I have the honor, by desire of the Municipal Commissioners of Ootacamund, to request that you will have the goodness to lay before the Right Honorable the Governor in Council the following views and proposals of the Commissioners, as ascertained at two Special Meetings, held on 16th and 21st instant respectively, in connexion with the subject matter of the Government Order above mentioned.

2. With reference to the method proposed by the Government for re-payment of the loan of Rupees 40,000, by raising the rate of taxation on houses, buildings, and lands, from 5 per cent. to  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. on gross annual rentals, the Commissioners, upon careful consideration, beg respectfully to bring to the notice of the Government that—after allowing due weight to the depreciated value of house property in Ootacamund during the last few years, and to its present unremunerative character ; to the facts that the tax-payers are, with few exceptions, in any thing but affluent circumstances, and that the present rate of 5 per cent. generally presses heavily—in their opinion, a rate of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. cannot, with fairness to house owners, be imposed : nay more, that the same objections apply, though, of course, in dimin-

ished proportion, still with sufficient force, to *any* increase of the existing house and land rate.

3. The Commissioners, while tendering their best acknowledgments of the liberality of the Government, of which they would gratefully avail themselves, in making a grant-in-aid for Ootacamund municipal purposes of Rupees 20,000, and in offering further a loan of Rupees 40,000, or, in all, a sum of Rupees 60,000, to be devoted to carrying out the remedial measures proposed by the Commissioners in May last, and now approved of by the Government in their Order of the 2nd instant, have much pleasure, at the same time, in pointing out that the large item of Rupees 8,000, under Head "I. Works," in Statement A, embodied in the Government Proceedings of the last above mentioned date, which item it was the intention of the Commissioners to appropriate yearly towards the erection of latrines and slaughter-houses, and other works of the nature mentioned in paragraph 3 of the Order, now becomes available yearly for the re-payment of the loan of Rupees 40,000.

4. But, as the current resources at the disposal of the Commissioners—the extension of which by increased taxation will, as has been shown above, be quite out of the question—are very limited in comparison with the annual expenditure required, which, in the case of conservancy, it is absolutely necessary to raise to fully double the amount originally estimated for, the Commissioners trust that the Government may be pleased to allow of the loan being re-paid by instalments of not less than Rupees 4,000 per annum, as no larger amount than this is likely to be available for the purpose; but on the understanding that, in the event of it being found hereafter that conservancy operations cannot, without inconvenience and difficulty, be at once increased to such an extent as to involve more than twice the amount of outlay entered in the estimate, any surplus that may remain in any year on this account shall be devoted to repayment of the loan.

5. By the above proposal, the amount which will be forthcoming for conservancy purposes will be Rupees 4,455 (as shown in the estimate formerly submitted) plus Rupees 4,000 (being the balance of Rupees 8,000, after deducting the Rupees 4,000 to be applied to annual liquidation of the loan), or, in all, Rupees 8,455.

6. The butchers' trade, which, under the most favorable aspects, must, from its very character, be to a certain extent offensive, had been allowed to become in Ootacamund a source of intolerable nuisance. To counteract, so far as possible, this nuisance for the future, by the introduction of certain permanent improvements (part of the remedial projects), it has been determined upon to incur somewhat heavy expenditure. These improvements will affect not merely the public generally, but will also in a special degree prove of advantage to the butchers themselves. It appears to the Commissioners that the fairest way of obtaining a return from the butchers for the particular benefits conferred would be by imposing a charge, calculated upon the average number of sheep (or goats) and bullocks slaughtered monthly by each butcher, at the rate of one Anna for each of the former and four Annas for each of the latter animals; and, further, by levying from the butchers rent on account of the meat-stalls to be erected for the exposure for sale, as well as for the better preservation, of their meat. The butchers attach great value to the erection of these meat-stalls. It is frequent matter of complaint with them

that, for want of secure and well-ventilated accommodation, they are compelled to keep their meat at night in the same room in which they and their families cook their food and sleep, by a fire which is kept burning during the whole night; the consequence of which state of things is that meat, which should remain in good condition for six days at least, becomes unfit for sale on the third day after killing. So far, therefore, from the rent of meat-stalls being grudgingly paid, the butchers would readily disburse this amount, in return for the real boon the intended arrangements would prove to them. With regard to the head-tax upon each sheep (or goat) and bullock slaughtered, the Commissioners would remark that the daily cleansing of the slaughter-lines will necessitate a very considerable and permanent expenditure, and that it would seem only reasonable that the main portion of this expenditure should be borne by the butchers, on whose account it is, in fact, incurred. Nor, the Commissioners consider, can objection be fairly taken to the rates proposed, on the ground that they are too high. From the above sources, a sum of Rupees 1,800 (about) per annum should be derived. This sum, the Commissioners are of opinion, may fairly go to swell the total amount available for expenditure annually upon conservancy, which amount will thus be raised to Rupees 10,255 (Rupees 8,455 + Rupees 1,800).

7. Should the suggestion that the loan of Rupees 40,000 be re-paid out of the item of Rupees 8,000, under Head "I. Works" in the estimate, by yearly instalments of Rupees 4,000, except when the available balances may allow of higher payments, be viewed favorably by the Government, the Commissioners would beg leave to point out that the necessity for additional taxation will be obviated, since, under the explanation given above, in paragraph 3, no new works will have to be taken into account in the annual estimate, at any rate until after the completion of those already determined upon, the construction of which is now expressly provided for by the Government grant-in-aid and special loan.

8. The Commissioners would remark, with reference to paragraph 9 of the Order, that, in order to secure the efficient execution of the works proposed, it is absolutely necessary that the labor employed should be under skilled supervision. The Government, in their Order, Public Works Department, dated 25th November 1867, No. 3652, accorded their sanction to the work therein referred to being undertaken by the Public Works Department, should the Municipality desire it. The Commissioners trust that the Government may be pleased to extend similar sanction in the present instance, as they see no prospect of the work being otherwise so satisfactorily and cheaply carried out.

9. The plans and estimates for the municipal latrines, called for in paragraph 12 of the Government Order, are herewith submitted for approval. These were furnished by Major Farewell, at the request of the Commissioners, who are of opinion that the style of latrine now designed is well adapted to the climate of Ootacamund and to the habits of the Natives. A similar description of latrine (but without partitions) is now in use in the Ootacamund Native Jail, and is found to answer well. A small quantity only of earth will be sufficient to allow of the daily removal, without causing annoyance and at no great cost, of the fecal matter. The Commissioners intend that these latrines should be cleaned daily, and the refuse carted to a site near the out-limits of the station.

10. In conclusion, the Commissioners would again give expression to their deep sense of the liberal assistance and co-operation afforded by the Government in carrying out the permanent sanitary measures immediately required for Ootacamund. The Commissioners would have wished to meet the Government proposals in the same liberal spirit in which they were made, and it is not without great reluctance that they have yielded to the conviction that any extension of the existing house and land tax would, in the present circumstances of Ootacamund, prove so injurious, that its adoption cannot fairly be thought of. The proposals above detailed set forth how far, in their opinion, the Government Order may fairly be amended, and the Commissioners venture to hope that, in consideration of the facts now brought to notice, the Government may be pleased to take these proposals into their favorable consideration.

No. 155. ORDER THEREON, 28th October 1868, No. 1348.

In G. O., dated the 2nd September last, No. 1107, the Government offered to the Municipality of Ootacamund a loan of Rupees 40,000, and a grant of Rupees 20,000, in order to enable them to put the station and bazaars of Ootacamund in thorough order. The condition attached to this proposal was, that the Municipal Commissioners should show a disposition to aid themselves and increase their resources by additional taxation, and it was pointed out to them that the most legitimate method of doing this was by raising the house tax from 5 to 7½ per cent. This would give an annual addition to the municipal income of Rupees 6,250, which could be assigned in repayment of the Government loan.

2. In answer to the Government proposal, the President of the Ootacamund Municipality states that, with reference to the method proposed for the repayment of the loan of Rupees 40,000, by raising the tax on houses and lands, the Commissioners, upon careful consideration, and allowing due weight to the depreciated value of house property, and to its unremunerative character, are of opinion that a rate of 7½ per cent. cannot with fairness to house owners be imposed.

3. While declining to tax themselves further, the Municipality point out that they have in their Budget a sum of Rupees 8,000 for new works and improvements. They now propose to assign one-half of this (Rupees 4,000) to payment of the loan, and to assign the other half to increase the conservancy establishment, leaving the cost of new works and improvements to be met out of the loan money and the Government grant-in-aid. They add, if there is found any difficulty in spending the whole amount now assigned to conservancy (Rupees 8,500), any surplus can be added to the Rupees 4,000 allotted to payment of the loan.

4. The Government are not prepared to admit that the house property will not fairly bear the addition of 2½ per cent. to the present house tax, but they will not at the present moment insist upon this condition to the aid which they have offered to the Municipality. They cannot, however, consent to so small an amount as Rupees 4,000 per annum being assigned for the repayment of the interest and principal of the proposed loan of 40,000 Rupees. This would delay the repayment of the loan for twenty years.

5. They consider that the house tax should be hypothecated to Government for the repayment of the loan, and that it should be charged with a sum of 6,000

Rupees per annum for this purpose. This will ensure the re-payment of the loan in ten years.

6. The amount which will then remain for conservancy will be Rupees 2,000, the balance of the assignment of 8,000 Rupees in the Budget under the heading "New Works and Improvements", and Rupees 4,455-8-6 originally allotted to conservancy, making a total of Rupees 6,455-8-6. To this, will hereafter be added the fees which the Commissioners propose to levy on those using the slaughter-houses and stalls, and which they have estimated at Rupees 1,800 per annum.

7. The plan of the latrines submitted by the Commissioners is approved. Some slight alterations have been suggested, and are indicated on the plan in pencil.

8. The Government have no objection to Major Farewell giving the Municipal Commissioners such assistance in the supervision of the proposed new works as is compatible with his official duties, but they are unable at present to give to the Commissioners the services of an Officer of the Public Works Department.

(True Extract).

*B. S. M.*  
Chief Secretary.

To the President of the Municipal Commission, Ootacamund, with plan and estimate.  
" Commissioner of the Neilgherry Hills.  
" Public Works Department.

1897/10/30  
 1868  
 PUBLIC

THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
 MUNICIPAL COMMISSION

October  
 1897

David O. O'Donoghue, Esq.

1897/10/30

G. T. 25th October 1897, No. 1448

OCTOBER  
 NOV. 1897-1898

1897/10/30

The following is the list of the names  
 and addresses of the persons who have  
 been appointed to the various committees  
 of the Municipal Commission for the  
 year 1897-1898. The names are given  
 in alphabetical order, and the address  
 of each person is given in full.

with an note

1897

Communicated to the  
 Representative Assembly of  
 the Y. C. Division

1897/10/30

1897/10/30

The list of names  
 of the Y. C. Division

1897/10/30

PUBLIC WORKS  
To The Superintendent, District  
of Indiana  
No. 100, 101, 102

W. O. B. H. 1848, No. 3546

Nov. 234-235

Sanitary precautions Pos. Public  
also passing orders on papers  
relative to the Sanitary pre-  
cautions, and <sup>the</sup> increasing un-  
healthiness of Colocotronid, Con-  
stantinople - Constantinople Office -  
Constantinople.