Madras
Government House
6th April, 1880.

To

Colonel R. H. Sankey. C.B. R.E.
Secretary to Government
Public Works Department.

Sir

I am directed by His
Grace the Governor to inform
you that it has been brought
to notice that while the Public
Works Department were in
charge of the Government
House at Ooty, some of the
work people turned on the
water upstairs and left it

running which overflowing,
ran through into the Dining
room and has completely
destroyed 3 room carpets
of the aggregate value of Rs 220.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servant
Philip J. Hankin
Private Secretary.

Government Affairs

P.W.D.
7 APR 80
No.

TO BE RETURNED WITH REPLY.

No 1040

Forwarded to the S. E., 2d Circle, for report.

R. B. Lantaigne Col. C.E.
7th April 80. Chief Engr.,
P.W.D.

Cutg 12-5:80 hr.

No. 134. Executive Engineers Office
Ootacamund 3d May 1880

From,

Major J. L. L. Morant R.E.
Exc: Engr in charge of
West Coast Division

To,

The Supg Engineer
Coimbatore

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge your Memorandum No. 369/No. 2c. dated 10th April 1880 addressed to Mr Milne and beg to furnish the report you require regarding the destruction of the carpets belonging to Norwood Government House.

2- The carpets in question (together with other furniture) were towards the close of November last stored in the Dining Room of Norwood Government House by Captn Gore Langton and the doors locked and sealed, the keys being in the possession of a Government House Peon

Lascar who took them with him to Madras -

3. In February the D. P. W. Overseer in charge of the Building (Sergeant Edwards R. A.), requiring to enter the room for the purpose of preparing it prior to the arrival of His Grace The Governor, wrote to the Private Secretary and asked him to send up the above mentioned Lascar - The Private Secretary replied that the presence of the Lascar was not necessary; but the Keys of the room were sent up and Sergeant Edwards was authorized to open and enter the room.

4 Upon opening the dining room and removing the things contained in it, Sergeant Edwards discovered that two Carpets were destroyed through damp, but there was then nothing to shew (so Sergeant Edwards most positively informs me) how the damp had got at the Carpets - He carefully Scrutinized the ceiling of the Dining Room but could see no marks to indicate that water had percolated through it on to the Carpets. He at once reported the destruction of the Carpets to the Private Secretary to His Grace the Governor.

But what happened between the putting by in November & 30th December)

5. Between the 30th of December and the 31st of March - an interval of 3 months - no water whatever was admitted to the cistern at the top of the house. So that during these 3 months no water could possibly have percolated down into the Dining Room. The mischief if caused by water from the top of the House must have occurred before the 30th of December - Now it does not appear likely that the Carpets had been wetted by the water used in November and December for plastering the bedrooms above by soaking down through the ceiling to the Dining Room - Because all the 4 sets of bed rooms, both above the Dining Room and above His Grace's sitting Room were plastered in the same manners and at the same time, and no percolation occurred over any part of His Grace's Room

Yes there is a large stain in Gov's Office room between 4 & 5. Cracks from cornice wall. But there is evidence supplied as such over the room

nor

nor over the western half of the Dining Room.

6. On the morning of the 31st March (nearly 1/2 a month after the carpets had been removed from the Dining Room) Sergeant Edwards discovered that during the night by some irregular means the water had been turned on to the roof cistern and, the top of Miss Baycesou's bath room being open the water had flooded over its floor and percolated down into the part of the Dining Room immediately below it. The water had extended over the Dining Room ceiling to near its centre up to the place under which the carpets had been previously kept. The stains now visible on the dining room ceiling were caused by this overflow.

7. The occurrences noted in the above para may possibly be held to indicate the manner in which the carpets were wetted.

8. But, after carefully enquiring into the whole subject I am of opinion that the carpets were destroyed by being in November placed in a damp state in the Dining Room. One of these carpets, for example, was last year used in the room occupied by His Grace's Military Secretary. This room leaked a good deal, and the carpet must have become a good deal saturated with moisture. Before being stored in the Dining Room every effort was no doubt made to dry it, but most probably with only very partial success. Its dampness was probably communicated to the other carpets and hence the destruction which we all regret.

9. Trusting this explanation may be deemed satisfactory.

I have &c

Sgt J. L. L. Morant Maj R.E.
Executive Engineer.

No 49-

True Copy forwarded to the Chief Engineer as requested in his No 1045 dated 7th April, the delay in the submission of this report is that Major Morant had to make personal enquiries -

2. The Supy Engineer can give no opinion regarding how the damage occurred as owing to the carpets having been stored for 3 months in the Dining room under lock and seal it is impossible to trace whether the damage was from the carpets having been stored during damp or whether it was from the water having been turned on, as happened on the 31st March.

The evidence brought forward by Major Morant appears to show that most probably the first was the fact.

Major RE
Supy Engr 2d Circle

Coimbatore
8th May 1880.

C.E. Rw 1040 of 7= April 1880

P.W.D.
10MAY80

From No. 1011

The Supt. Engr.
2d Circle

To The Chief Engineer
P.W.D.

Dated 8 May 1880.

Rec'd

No 49.

Norwood Govt House

Report on the destruction of the Carpets belonging to —

Cir 12.5.80. Rec'd 15.7.80 —
Ent 10-5-80

P. W. Department.

Read the following :—

From the Supt. Engineer, 2d Circle, No. 49.
dated 8th May 1880

The argument in
the enclosure — FOR ORDERS. Circulated for information.

That water did percolate
from Bedrooms into my
office room is evident —
from the marks on ceiling
at 12 different points from external
wall — This must have
been during plastering
of Bed rooms —
The Bed. Lee. room leaked
leaked a good deal but
not shortly before we
went down — Then having
been only slight showers —
The room was then dry —
wrong — The carpet I
find on sweeping was dry —
the possible dampness was
I am sure could not have
affected it to any
extent — other lighter rolled

12th May 1880.

Circulated for information.
Sd. R. H. J. 13/5

Thick carpets
Rec

~~FOR ORDERS.~~

55

Post House complete

Rec'd for Colonial Secretary
May 1877

Cert 12.5.80 Est 16.7.80 -
10-5-80

Memo:
Reminder - 8.9.80.
£5. 5s. 0d. due

No. 49 2/10 May, 1880.

With reference to the explanations furnished in the Secretary's letter of the 7th inst. with the foregoing letter above quoted, it is understood that there is a stain on the ceiling of the first floor of the Treasurer's office caused by the leakage of the roof from the internal well, which must be removed. The due & the water used in the Secretary's & Treasurer's offices for plastering the back passage

shall do the same
to the same, or as occasion
shall require
case of the carpenter
must be away to
the percolation of
water through the
ceiling of the
dining room, or in
his office room, the
Secretaries Engineer should
then be Executed
to afford specific
information as the
Parish, respecting if
water has ever found
its way through the
ceiling which has
been stained in
the room below.

2. It should at the same
time be enquired what
use the Cistern falls on
each day of the week that

previous to
the carpenter
being
stained away in
the dining room
the 3rd December.

Rtt
3/8/80

J.J.P.
3/8

Executive Engineer's office

No. R. — Ootacamund 15th September 80

From,

Major J. L. L. Morant R.E.

Executive Engineer

West Coast Division

To,

The Superintending Engineer

Coimbatore

Sir,

In reply to your endorsement No. 801/W.C. dated 10th August 1880 on Memo: from the Chief Engineer No. 254 dated 4th Idem regarding damage to carpets in Norwood Government House Ootacamund, I regret that I find it impossible to report on the subject until a very careful examination has been made both inside and outside and upstairs and downstairs of the source of the stain alluded to. This can only be done when His Grace the Governor vacated the building. It cannot now be done without intruding on the privacy of many of the inmates particularly of the ladies.

2. I believe His Grace leaves Ootacamund in a few weeks. The report can

can then be made after a careful examination.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obdt. Servant
(Signed) J. S. L. Inorant, Major R.E.
Executive Engineer,

No. 298

True Copy.

Forwarded to the Chief Engineer with reference to his memo: No. 254 dated 4th August.

The Executive Engineer was at Ootacamund lately and this is the result of his enquiries. The Superintending Engineer agrees with him that until a very careful examination is made of the upper floor that there is no hope of any further information being gained with regard to the damaged carpets. As soon as His Grace leaves Ootacamund the necessary examination should be made.

2. A copy of the rainfall registers for October and November at Snowden House Snowden Hill and Executive Engineers office is forwarded. Enclosures 2

Major R.E.
Superintending Engineer
Second Circle

Supt. Engrs. Office IInd Circle
Coimbatore 22d Sept. 80

Nilgiri District. West Coast Division

Register of Rainfall in Inches and Decimals for the month of November 1879.

Date.	Stations at which Rainfall is Guaged.								Remarks.
	Snowden House	Snowden Hill	Executive Engrs. Office						
			Inside	Outside					
1	-	-	-	-					
2	-	-	-	-					
3	-	-	.13	.15					
4	.50	.35	.03	.06					
5	.35	.40	.03	-					
6	.50	.75	.15	.15					
7	-	-	.50	.45					
8	.06	.06	.23	.25					
9	.15	.25	.10	.12					
10	.25	.20	.17	.18					
11	-	-	-	-					
12	.35	.40	-	-					
13	-	-	-	-					
14	-	-	-	-					
15	1.0	1.05	.50	.53					
16	-	-	-	-					
17	-	-	-	-					
18	-	-	-	-					
19	-	-	-	-					
20	-	-	-	-					
21	-	-	-	-					
22	.35	.30	.16	.18					
23	-	-	-	-					
24	-	-	-	-					
25	-	-	-	-					
26	-	-	-	-					
27	-	-	-	-					
28	-	-	-	-					
29	-	-	-	-					
30	-	-	-	-					
31	-	-	-	-					
	3.50	3.76	2.60	2.67					Total Rainfall.
									3 Hours, 6 Hours, 12 Hours, 24 Hours, 36 Hours — Maximum Rainfall in the month.
									Duration Heaviest Rainfall — Storm.

(Signed) J. S. L. Inorant Major R.E.
Executive Engineer

Ootacamund 26th June 1880. True Extract

Major R.E.
Supt. Engineer 2d Circle

P.W.D.
27SEP80
No. 6059

_____ DISTRICT.

REGISTER OF RAINFALL

FOR THE

MONTH OF _____ 18____.

Nilgiri District. West Coast Division

Register of Rainfall in Inches and Decimals for the month of October 1879.

Date.	Stations at which Rainfall is Guaged.								Remarks.
	Anandan Home	Anandan Hill	Executive Engrs Office						
			Inside	outside					
1	·40	·35	·45	·40					
2	·10	·12	·11	·07					
3	"	"	"	"					
4	·10	·12	·18	·15					
5	·05	·07	·35	·30					
6	"	"	"	"					
7	·95	·70	·58	·55					
8	"	"	"	"					
9	"	"	"	"					
10	"	"	"	"					
11	"	"	"	"					
12	"	"	"	"					
13	·45	·50	·60	·55					
14	"	"	·02	"					
15	"	"	"	"					
16	·05	·05	·14	·10					
17	·15	·10	·06	·04					
18	·65	·70	·95	·98					
19	"	"	·12	·10					
20	·75	·65	·87	·85					
21	·06	·05	·05	·05					
22	"	"	·06	·06					
23	·03	·05	·02	·02					
24	·25	·30	·32	·30					
25	·90	·75	1·35	1·35					
26	·40	·40	·36	·30					
27	1·10	1·40	·75	·95					
28	·30	·35	·09	·38					
29	"	"	"	"					
30	·05	·05	"	"					
31	·25	·30	"	·15					
	6·99	7·01	7·43	7·65					Total Rainfall.
									3 Hours, 6 Hours, 12 Hours, 24 Hours, 36 Hours — Maximum Rainfall in the month.
									Duration of Heaviest Rainfall — Storm.

Observations 26th June 1880.

(True Extract) (Signed) J. L. Prevost Major

Executive Engineer.

(Signed) J. M. Ward Major RE

P.W.D.
27SEP80

_____ DISTRICT.

REGISTER OF RAINFALL

FOR THE

MONTH OF _____ 18____.

P.W.D.
27 SEP 80

From No 6880

The Supt Engineer
Secnd Circle.

I do not know what the rainfall was at the time alluded to but this is a matter which can be decided by reference to the Registers

Att
2/8/80

Dated 22?
Despd: 23? September 80.

No: 298.

Enc: 2

Government House of Ootacamund:—

Forwarding copy of Major Morants letter stating that he is unable to report morefully of the cause of the damage to the carpets of until a careful examination of the bowling has been made.

O. 28.9.80.

Memo

To the best of my recollection of the State of the ceiling as pointed out to me by Sergeant Edwards the slight marks on the ceiling would hardly lead to the conclusion that any water had found its way into the room, and I cannot but think that this fact must be under his observation in regard to this point

Before however submitting any opinion on his consideration I think it would be well to request specific information from Major Serrant who will more than probably be in a position to know the facts

0.28.9.80.

C.A.W.

Post-card
Signed & posted
Ottt.
8/9/80

C.A.W.

As suggested the enquiry may stand over till after this years debenture when amount is fixed otherwise to undertaken & the report submitted
It is material to know if possible when the artists were selected who & when & carried away in the rooms

Ottt
30/9/80

O.28.9.80.

P.W.D

Memorandum.

From the Superintending Engineer 2nd Circle, No. 298 dated 22d. September 1880.

In reply to the above letter the undersigned has the honor to say that the enquiry may stand over as suggested, till after His Grace's departure from Ootacamund, when however it should at once be undertaken and the report submitted.

2. It is material to know if possible, when the carpets were folded up and packed away in the rooms.

(Sd) R. H. S. Colles
Chief Engr. & Secy.

To
The Supdg. Engr. 2d. Circle.

Sub Divisional Office
Ootacamund 7th. December 1880.

No. 151.

From,

The Sub Divisional Officer
Nilgiris.

To,

The Executive Engineer
West Coast Division.

Sir,

In reply to your No. 202 dated 30th. November 1880, with the 7 enclosures herewith returned, regarding the destruction of carpets in Government House, Ootacamund, I have the honor to report as follows:—

The carpets in question were rolled up and put against the wall in the Dining Room in November 1879. In the following months the rooms above were plastered, and the water used for this purpose was drawn from a tap in a bath room above and a little to one side of the Dining Room; under this tap is a shallow (3 inches deep) cistern with a horizontal discharge pipe ½ inch in diameter. The discharge pipe got blocked and some of the workpeople left the tap turned on, and the water overflowed on to the floor, and ran down between the boards on to the brick on edge ceiling, and then percolated through

through the ceiling on to the carpets.

The statement made in para 4 of the Executive Engineer's No. 134 dated 3rd. May "there was then nothing to show (so "Sergeant Edwards positively informs me) how "the damp had got at the carpets, he carefully "scrutinized the ceiling of the Dining Room, but "could see no marks to indicate that water "had percolated through it on to the carpets," is not supported by any of the workpeople; all say that when the room was opened it was at once seen that water had come through the ceiling on to the carpets.

It is possible that the fact, that the cistern had overflowed, was not known to the Overseer until the Dining room was opened, as the water resting on the ceiling was hid from his view by the boarded floor, and the rooms underneath were not accessible to him. Sergeant Edwards, who was the Overseer of Government House at the time, is not in this Sub-division now, so I have not been able to question him on the matter.

I have &c.

(Signed) A. Milne, Conductor
Sub Divisional Office

No. 445.

Forwarded to the Superintending Engineer with reference to his No. 801 on Chief Engineer's Memo: No. 254 of 4th. August 1880.

The Executive Engineer regrets that this letter with some others was sent up in a roll to his bungalow on the 13th. and that he was not aware of these papers until the Head Clerk informed him of them to-day he having been sent from office through illness for the last two days.

Calicut. 18th. Decr/80

(Signed) E. H. Pringle
Executive Engr. West Coast Div.

No. 456

True copy forwarded to the Chief Engineer with a regret that the Executive Engineer did not, as was arranged, inspect the Government House at Ootacamund about the 15th. of last month and make a personal report on the matter; he was detained in the southern portion of his Division and had to alter his places. On the 30th of November the Superintending Engineer found that Mr. Pringle had done nothing towards having a report made and directed that Mr. Milne should send in the report as soon as possible.

2. From Mr. Milne's report, it appears that

that the workpeople now say that on opening the Dining Room there were signs of water having come down from the ceiling; this is in direct contradiction to Serjeant Edwards' report to Major Morant (see the letter No. 134 dated 3rd. May) and the Superintending Engineer considers Serjeant Edwards should be called on for his explanation regarding this.

3. As this is the case the Superintending Engineer cannot but consider that most probably the carpets were damaged by the carelessness of the workpeople when plastering the upper rooms in allowing a water tap to remain turned on the discharge pipe of the sink being stopped up.

4. The carpets being stored for 3 months under lock and seal and not being examined during that time or in the special charge of anyone became damp and were injured. It is considered that most probably neither the Overseer nor anyone had any idea of the damage that was being done.

Major &c
Supt Engineer 2nd. Circle

Supt Engr's Off: 2nd Circle
Combatore 21st Decr 80

C.E. No. 1040. 9.4.80.
" " 254. 4.8.80.
" " 494. 1.10.80

From
The Supg. Engineer,
Second circle

Dated 21st
Desp: 22nd Dec: 1880

No. 456.

Damage done to carpet in Government House Ootacamund: —

Forwarding with his remarks, endorsement of the Ex. Engineer, forwarding report of Mr. Dilke regarding the —.

P. W. Despatch.

The Private Secretary to Government, dated 6th

The Supdg. Engineer No. 49, dated 8th May 1880.

Do - Do - No. 298, dated 8th September 1880.

~~Lieut. J. Cordeaux to dated 2nd November 1880.~~

The Supdg. Engineer No. 456, dated 21st

Circulated for information.

The carpet in the centre of the verandah of the Government House at Ootacamund was taken up by order of His Grace the Duke of

The Supdg. Engineer
Nilgiri Circle
Ootacamund

Sir,

I have the honor to report for the information of His Grace the Governor in Council that the carpet in the verandah of the Government House at Ootacamund was taken up by my order on the 3rd instant for the purpose of cleaning the floor underneath.

2. The carpet was replaced on the 6th instant.

3. The damage done to the carpet by the rain water which had collected on the floor underneath, was caused by the heavy rains which fell during the night of the 2nd instant.

4. I have the honor to request that the carpet may be replaced at the expense of Government.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient servant
Executive Engineer
Nilgiri Circle

Ootacamund
The 6th December 1880.

C.E. 1.81. 2.81.

C.E. No. 1040. D. 4. 80.
" " 254. 4. 8. 80.
" " 494. 1. 10. 80

P. W. Depte.

The Chief Secretary's Head
Mr. Hammett.
Seager accepted one
the Cottages on the Hill
Repl the Regs of the
uildings while the Govt.
ere at Madras. What
the arrangements have
been for the part two
Masons Ido each Rmnd.

When once the Gover-
nor's Residence is handed
over by the P. W. Depte.
Govt. House officials
should arrange for
looking after it. in
the same way as they
do at Madras.

R. S. 6/11.

C.A.W.

Recmd the annexed letter
remd by me at Coimbatore
from Capt. Gordon A.D.C.
Fit to stand over till
receipt of the S.E's Inspection
Report when the contents of this
may be expected.

13.11.80 Attt

R.S.

The Private Secretary
to Governor, dated 6th
the Supdg. Engineer
49, dated 8th May 1880.
Do - No. 298,
tember 1880.
~~Forwarded for Circulation~~
~~dated 8th November 80.~~
Supdg Engineer
No. 456, dated 21st

circulated for
information -

Since communicated
result of the cele-
rejoicings of the
inspection of his
race the Duke
of

P.

There is no police
guard - the doors
are locked, the
Police keeping the
Keys; there is
a gardener who
lives in the
premises - no one
else -
No peons are left
in charge by
any Govt. Depte.

P/

C.A.W.

I think it will be well to address Govt. on this matter in connection with the inquiry in the contents of Govt. No: last year - to know what is the decision to be considered after return of the Duke to London

4/11/80 Attt

C.E. 1.81. R. 18.1.

C.E. No. 1040. 9.4.80.
" " 254. 4.8.80.
" " 494. 1.10.80

Mr. H.

Is there anything on record regarding the Custody of said Buildings &c &c. after the said Land the Hills?

R.S. 6/11.

Nothing can be traced from our books.

6/11

Submitted to Mr. The Secretariat buildings including the Council Chamber &c &c are supposed to be in charge of the Chief Secretary. For several years back they were looked after by Mr. Seager of the P.W. Dept. Establishment. under the direction

P.W. Dept.

I & N Dept

I & N Secretariat
Who takes
charge of the
Records &c
to obtain Plan
?

3/11/16

C.E. 1.84. R. 18.1.

C.S.No. 1040. 7.4.80.
" " 254. 4.8.80.
" " 494. 1.10.80

C.A.V.

Who is Asst. in charge of Structures and the Property thereon entrusted while the Govt. is at Simla ?

Att
3/11/80
Lt. Col. Miles. A.P. 3/11

Submitted to Hr.
The Secretariat buildings including the Council Chamber &c. &c. are supposed to be in charge of the Chief Secretary. For several years past they were looked after by Mr. Seager of the P.W. Petty Establishments. under the direction

C.S. 1.81. R.15.1.

P.W. Dept.

Letter from the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor, dated 6th April 1880.

Letter from the Superintending Engineer 2nd Circle, No. 49, dated 8th May 1880.

Letter from do - do - No. 298, dated 22nd September 1880.

~~Letter from Lieutenant J. Cranston Aide de Camp, dated 8th November 1880.~~

Letter from the Superintending Engineer Second Circle, No. 456, dated 21st December 1880.

Circulated for information.

2. There cannot now be any doubt of the correctness of the supposition of His Excellency the Duke of

Buckingham that
the carpets used
in engineering by water
let in by the Public
Works Department
were Rs ten-fifths. Price
of the carpets will
therefore be accepted
as a debit against
the work in lieu of the
Govt. share of opinions
that the Rupees
in abstract should
be called on to make
up to at least a portion
of the amount.

W. Lawley C.E. M.R.
Chief Engineer & Secy: to Govt
P.W.D.

Jany. 1881.

Rec'd. 6-4-81 R.B.L.

C.E. 1-81. R.B.L.

No 180 W

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the 21st January 1881

Read the following:—

From the Private Secy: to His Grace the Governor (M.C.C. No. dy 6th April 1880)
" Lt. Govr. Second Circle (" " 49 " 8th May ")
" do - (" " 298 " 22nd Sept. ")
" do - (" " 456 " 21st Dec. ")
" do -

Report regarding damage done to the Carpets in the Govt. Offices by rain

The report of the Subdivisional Officer dated the 5th December leaves no doubt of the correctness of the supposition that the carpets were injured by water let in by the P.W. Department work people. The cost of the carpets, Rs 220, will therefore be accepted as a debit against the work.

The

2. The Overseer in charge ~~of~~ at the time, Serjeant Edwards is much to blame for the careless manner in which the work people seem to have been allowed to act. The tops of the dis-charge pipes is reported to have been left turned on, allowing the water to overflow the cistern on to the floor, and to percolate through the ceiling to the rooms below where the carpets were rolled up.

3. He was called upon to explain the damage to the carpets Serjeant Edwards professed ignorance of these circumstances - he should be warned that such conduct is viewed with displeasure.

Lt. 2nd Corps
Com. Architect to Govt.
Exor. P.W. Accts
Private Secy: to the
Right Honble the Governor.

Genl
22-1-87.

19/1/87