

931W 22.3.83



J.W.C. No. 2958

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, possibly a letter or report.]

No 1087 W a/12th April 83.

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Entd. in Receipt Regr.

No.



Public DEPARTMENT

Official Memorandum.

Dated the 5th April 1883.

It is requested that G.O.
dated 22nd March 1883, No 931 W, may
be communicated to the Financial
Department thro' which Department
instructions to Municipal bodies
are usually conveyed.

(By Order)

M. H. Munnell
Asst Secretary

The Public Works Dept.

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of 1883 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated March, 22nd.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 22nd March 1883, No. 931 W.

MARCH.
Nos. 171-172.

Ootacamund Lake

Ordering the cessation of any further
lowering of the level of the —, &c.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

No. 171.

READ—the following papers:—

G.O., dated 17th March 1883, No. 580, Public.

No. 171-A.

From Deputy Surgeon-General M. C. FURNELL, M.D., F.R.C.S., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Public Department, dated Madras, 16th March 1883, No. 361.

I have the honor, in continuation of my memorandum accompanying letter, No. 234, of 5th March 1883, to report to Government that, hearing cholera had made its appearance in the town, I deemed it advisable to visit Ootacamund.

2. I inspected the lake several times with the Local Sanitary Officer and Engineer. I also visited the Marliamund reservoir.

3. The attempt to drain the eastern or upper part of the lake has resulted in laying bare a large spit of land on the western side close to the Willow bund, and a good deal of the margin of the lake all round, and in various recesses under Bishops-down, Audry House, &c.

4. The inhabitants complain a good deal of the smells emanating from these places, more especially the dry land near the Willow bund. This is said to be more especially noticeable after a shower of rain followed by a hot sun.

5. During my stay no rain fell in Ootacamund, but standing on the Willow bund a fish-like sickening odour was perceptible, and on walking over the land which has been laid bare this was still more apparent; on a part of the land west of the bund, where a large drain from the Butcher's hill empties itself, the smell is very pronounced, and also in several parts of the eastern side where drains from the bazaar run down.

6. I am decidedly of opinion that the present state of things is dangerous to the community in a sanitary point of view, and likely to become more so when rain shall have fallen followed by a hot sun.

7. The people, deprived of ready access to water for domestic purposes, complain bitterly, the more so that a diminished supply is now allowed from the Marliamund reservoir, owing to its being far from full; the drains also, not being flushed on account of this short water supply, are in the bazaar more offensive than usual.

8. My opinion is it would be better to stop at once the running off of the water, and that some other plan should be adopted to reclaim the upper or east end of the lake.

No. 172.

ORDER—dated 22nd March 1883, No. 931 W., Public Works.

In the present state of the question connected with the lowering of the level of the water in the lake at Ootacamund, it is not, in the opinion of Government, necessary at present to do more than direct—

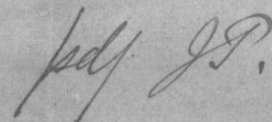
- (1) the cessation of any further lowering of the level,
- (2) the early completion of the regulating sluices in front of the waste weir,
- (3) the immediate sowing of all the exposed portions of the lake bed with either grass or koralee seed,
- (4) the removal, desiccation and burning of all rank vegetation and aquatic plants exposed in the lowering process, and
- (5) the effective flushing and scavenging of the bazaar drains.

2. The needful orders under heads (1), (2), (3) and (4) above will at once be issued by the Chief Engineer and under (5) by the President, Municipal Commission.

3. From all the reports which have reached the Government it is clear that the scavenging of the bazaar drains has been greatly neglected of late, and that this is in some measure due to a misapprehension as to the level at which the water in the Marliamund reservoir should be maintained, which has led to the drains being insufficiently flushed.

4. Whatever the cause, the condition of the bazaar drains is and has been most unsatisfactory, and His Excellency the Governor in Council must look to a sufficient and early remedy being carried out by the President of the Municipal Commission in consultation with Dr. Nanney.

(True Extract.)



Major, R.E.,
Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Superintending Engineer, Fourth Circle.
„ President, Municipal Commission, Ootacamund.
„ Sanitary Commissioner.
„ Public Department.

Financial Department

Exd. C. Howarth.
Spare Copies